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## The Queen and Princess lose patience over divorce delay



Princess: wants £30m

By FRANCES GIBB AND ALAN HAMILTON

LAWYERS for the Princess of Wales have become exasperated over her husband's failure to respond to £30 million divorce proposals tabled almost three months ago.

In spite of the secrecy now surrounding the divorce negotiations, signs of irritation are emerging from those close to the Princess, whose legal team is led by Anthony Julius of Mishcon de Reya.

Since Mr Julius put forward the Princess's proposals for a financial settlement in April, there has been

no response from Farrer & Co, acting for the Prince.

The delay is becoming a source of irritation to the Queen, who is increasingly anxious that the couple's divorce be wrapped up to limit any further damage to the Crown. The Queen wrote separately to the Prince and Princess shortly before Christmas urging them to get proceedings under way.

She is equally irritated when the negotiations become public. Mr Julius is understood to have received a reprimand from the highest quarter when he appeared on television in April to complain about

the lack of response from the Prince's side. One source close to the Princess said yesterday: "There may well be huge activity, but they are keeping it to themselves."

Speculation mounted last week that the Prince's legal team, led by Fiona Shackleton, had worked out what was described as a generous deal to be presented to the Princess's lawyers shortly.

The deal, thought to be worth £20 million, taking into account the value of homes in London and the country, would fall well short of the Princess's original proposals, but she could not realistically have

hoped to achieve those. It includes a lump sum of some £12 million, to include the cost of buying a country home; an annual income of £750,000; the use of Kensington Palace, and joint responsibility for the children.

The two-month delay may have increased pressure on the Princess to accept the package rather than fight for a few more millions.

It is unusual for there to be such limited contact between lawyers negotiating a divorce settlement. But relations were tense almost from the outset, and came to a head in April after the Princess of Wales

released a statement announcing their decision to divorce. Farrers, the Queen's solicitors, have steadfastly refused to talk to the press or to give unofficial briefings. Ms Shackleton has always said: "I never discuss my clients."

Mr Julius, by experience a litigator and not a divorce lawyer, was initially more ready to speak up in defence of his client. He caused a furor by speaking on television and Farrers subsequently sought an undertaking that the negotiations should remain confidential. However, the request ran into the ground. The Princess's solicitors responded

that any such undertaking should be matched by one from the Prince, which he saw no reason to give.

Whatever the final settlement, it is almost certain that the Queen will have to come to her eldest son's aid with money from her private resources, as she did with the more speedily concluded £2 million settlement that ended the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of York.

The Prince of Wales relies almost entirely for his income on the Duchy of Cornwall estates. Last year he drew £3.9 million after tax, of which about £2 million went on official duties.

## Defiant Blair backed on referendum

By JILL SHERMAN AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

TONY BLAIR last night won the backing of Scottish Labour Party leaders for a referendum on an Edinburgh Parliament, in spite of the growing rebellion over a plan that has already prompted two top-level resignations.

Mr Blair, who was booed and heckled by protesters accusing him of a sell-out, insisted that he would press ahead with the policy and eventually won the overwhelming support of the Scottish executive.

It nevertheless criticised the way the plan had been leaked and regretted the resignations of the shadow Scottish minister John McAllion and Lord Ewing of Kirkcaldy, the co-chairman of the cross-party group that drew up the parliament blueprint.

Scottish party leaders were infuriated by Mr Blair's fail-

ure to consult them on the referendum, and some wanted a special one-day conference to consider the proposal — although that was convincingly rejected by the executive.

And Mr McAllion reopened the questions over Mr Blair's style of leadership, accusing him of railroading through a proposal that was not party policy and blowing apart attempts at cross-party consensus.

But Mr Blair mounted a robust defence of the strategy in a keynote speech to a handpicked audience of 200 party workers at Edinburgh University, making clear that he would take on his critics head on, as he had over the rewriting of Clause Four.

"Let no one doubt Labour's determination to make radical changes in the way we run our country and to decentralise power," he said. "If there are arguments to have I will have them. If there are decisions to be taken, I will take them. And I will take them in the interests of the country."

He went on to promise that he would become the first Labour Prime Minister who could deliver a Scottish Parliament, after successive failures over the last century. And in a bid to reassure potential Tory defectors, he insisted that the proposal was not about breaking up the union but about bringing power closer to the people. "Scotland and Wales do not want separatism. The nationalists might want to tear our country apart and to rip up the United Kingdom. But that is because they mistake national pride for separatism."

But the growing party rebellion against his proposal was fuelled by the stinging attack from Mr McAllion, who claimed that Labour was no longer in control of its own policy. A two-question referendum was never part of agreed

policy. "This change has been imposed on the party without consultation, without debate and without the opportunity to influence or change that decision. It is not therefore, Labour Party policy," he said. "I think we have ventured into dangerous territory and we have lost control of our own policy."

He argued that the decision to pose a question on tax-raising powers sent a clear signal to the voters that the power was suspect and invited them to vote against it.

This argument added to the growing suspicion that the referendum was a compromise deal struck with George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, as a way of stripping the Parliament of its main power. Mr Blair added weight to the theory by insisting that even if the public voted "yes" on this question a Scottish Parliament would not necessarily use the powers.

"If people vote 'yes' to the second question, it does not follow that taxes will be raised. That suggestion is absurd. Political parties will still want to think long and hard before entering an election pledged to raise taxes."

Before the meeting Bob Thomson, Labour Party treasurer in Scotland, led calls for Mr Blair to hold a special conference to give the Scottish party a chance to air their views. "The disloyalty has been the way that this decision has been taken behind closed doors in a Shadow Cabinet sub-committee that nobody knew about until yesterday," Mr Thomson said.

"Tony Blair talks about giving the people a say, yet he has totally ignored party processes. George Robertson and Tony Blair do not have the authority to change policies."

Magnus Linklater, page 2

Leading article and Letters, page 23



Boris Becker holding the wrist which he injured hitting a forehand in a tie-break

## Wrist injury puts end to Becker's Wimbledon fight

By JOANNA BALE

BORIS BECKER pulled out of Wimbledon yesterday after injuring his wrist in a match with the unseeded Neville Godwin of South Africa.

The number two seed dropped his racket and held his right wrist after hitting a forehand wide during a tie-break in the first set at 6-6.

Becker, whose wife Barbara left No 1 Court in tears, said afterwards: "I was trying to hit a forehand and I hit it too late. My wrist gave way and I heard something pop. I thought I had broken my wrist. From then on I could not hold the racket."

The three-times Wimbledon champion added: "My trainer thinks that a piece of bone could be chipped off from the tendon. I have to have some X-rays. I know it's serious."

Becker was allowed three minutes of injury time during which he massaged his wrist and was examined by a doctor on court. When the time ran out, he tried a few practice shots but told the umpire that he had decided to retire, clearly in some pain. He shook



Barbara Becker: tears

hands with Godwin and walked off court to applause from the spectators.

Becker is the latest top seed to bow out of Wimbledon after Andre Agassi and Monica Seles were knocked out earlier in the week.

After the match Godwin said: "To be in the fourth round is unbelievable, but it's not the way I would have liked to get there."

Class barrier defeated, page 5

Match reports, pages 50, 52

### Doubt over Clarke's G7 'victory'

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, yesterday claimed victory in his campaign for an international agreement on debt relief for the world's poorest countries, financed through an International Monetary Fund gold sale.

But there was scepticism at the G7 economic summit in Lyons that Britain had won German support.

Buoyant Clarke, page 2

Summit reports, page 12

Gold deal off, page 27

### Barracks blast

Unidentified gunmen set off an explosion at a British army barracks near Osnabrück in western Germany by shooting at fuel tanks on the base.

## FBI agent's book tells of Clinton's midnight hotel trysts

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON



Clinton: denies rumours

A BLISTERING and instantly disputed account of life with the Clintons — with the President holding midnight trysts in a Washington hotel and the First Lady imperiously ruling the roost — was published yesterday by a former FBI agent who worked in the White House.

Gary Aldrich also claims that Craig Livingstone, who resigned as head of White House personnel security this week, told him that Vincent Foster killed himself because rumours of an affair with Hillary Clinton were about to resurface. Mr Foster, deputy White House counsel,

was found dead from a bullet to the head three years ago.

Throughout his book, *Unlimited Access*, Mr Aldrich pours vitriol on the President, his wife and their staff, citing unnamed sources and without documentary proof. A White House lawyer, Mark Fabiani, described the book's publication in an election year as a "political act of zero credibility" based on rumour and innuendo. "On its face, this is trash for right-wing cash," Mr Fabiani said.

Mr Aldrich contends that information on Mr Clinton's late-night trips out of the White House came from a "highly-educated, well-trained, experienced investigator". The source claimed that Mr

Clinton gave his Secret Service detail the slip and was usually driven a couple of blocks to the Marriott Hotel by Bruce Lindsey, a long-time confidant from Arkansas now accused of fraud.

According to this account, the President lay on the back seat of the car, covered by a blanket. At the hotel he entered by a lift from the underground garage and went straight to a room to meet a woman, possibly a celebrity. Mr Lindsey waited in the car until the President returned, often hours later. Yesterday the hotel said it did have a lift bypassing the lobby, but not from the garage.

Mr Aldrich goes on to claim that the

Continued on page 2, col 7

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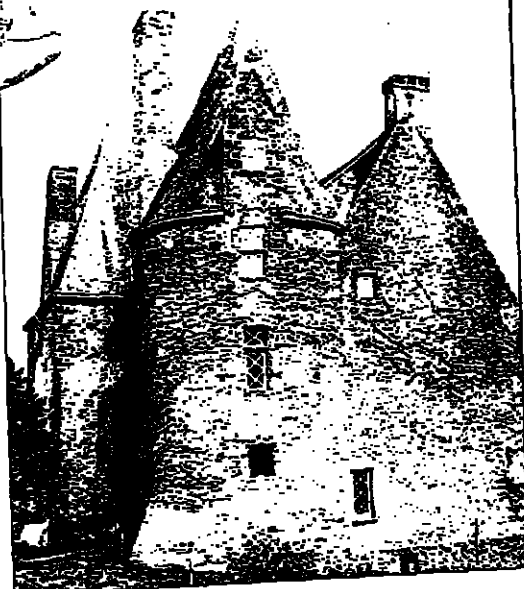
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## THE TIMES MONDAY

THE GREAT  
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OF SPORTEVERY SUMMER  
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MONDAYTERRY VENABLES'S  
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*The Times*, the coach's view  
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afford and where

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Feel-good  
factor back,  
says Clarke

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER AND MICHAEL BINYON IN LYONS

KENNETH CLARKE seized  
centre stage at the world  
economic summit yesterday  
to claim that the "feel-good"  
factor had returned to Britain.The Chancellor of the Ex-  
chequer declared that the  
economy was one of the  
healthiest in the developed  
world and that the trend of  
better living standards for the  
average citizen would continue  
for some years.Citing figures yesterday  
which showed that personal  
incomes were up 4 per cent on  
the year and the trade deficit  
was sharply down, Mr Clarke  
said: "The real disposable  
incomes of people in the  
United Kingdom are growing  
this year as never before in  
the last few years."It was the most optimistic  
assessment of economic pros-  
pects that the Chancellor has  
given and comes less than a  
week before the Cabinet meets  
to fix the framework for public  
spending next year. This will  
determine how much he can  
give away in pre-election tax  
cuts in November's Budget.He repeated his forecast in the  
last Budget that people would  
be £450 better off as a result of  
it this year and said that Tony  
Blair was talking "tosh" in  
dismissing his claim.According to senior Treasury  
officials, Mr Clarke is  
expected to warn ministerial  
colleagues that there can be  
no "spending binge" before  
the election and to urge themto give him as much scope as  
possible for tax reductions.He will insist that the public  
spending "control total" of  
£258 billion should be hit or  
even reduced. The figure was  
based on assumptions that  
inflation would rise by 3.6 per  
cent, suggesting that there is  
already slack in the system for  
tax cuts. But ministers have  
long felt that the key to  
electoral success will be  
whether people believe that  
living standards are improv-  
ing and jobs are safe.Speaking after the summit's  
setpiece economic debate, Mr  
Clarke said that the average  
person was well capable of  
forming a view about their  
personal finances and whether  
they felt more secure in  
their jobs. "I think a growing  
number of people in the Uni-  
ted Kingdom can feel good in  
that way," he said.Mr Clarke was also herald-  
ing a victory over Germany  
yesterday on Britain's plan,  
backed by France, for the sale  
of some of the International  
Monetary Fund's gold res-  
erves to help to ease the debt  
problems of some of the  
poorest countries. In spite of  
what he admitted was the  
"opaque" language of the final  
communiqué, the Chancellor  
said that it could be interpreted  
only as meaning that the  
sale of £1.4 billion of gold  
reserves would go ahead.

US curbs on IRA, page 12

## Magnus Linklater on Tony Blair's referendum U-turn

Anatomy  
of a  
Scottish  
political  
disasterTHERE were two competing  
views within Labour ranks in  
Scotland yesterday. One came  
from the head, one from the  
heart. "I just feel gutted," was  
the reaction of one party veter-  
an. "I thought 'Here we go,  
it's 1979 all over again.' That  
was a reference to the last  
referendum on devolution in  
Scotland, when Jim Callaghan's  
Bill fell by the wayside  
amid national recrimination.This sense of history repeat-  
ing itself, usually as tragedy,  
comes naturally to the Scots.  
Gary McAllister's missed  
penalty in the Euro 96 competi-  
tion was greeted with a groan  
of awful recognition. Equally,  
the announcement by the  
Shadow Scottish Secretary,  
George Robertson, that the  
party would hold a referen-  
dum before legislating for a  
Scottish parliament evoked  
shades of what many remem-  
ber as a Labour betrayal.Meanwhile, the head was  
doing its best to speak reason.  
A referendum, it was pointed  
out, would put the seal of  
legitimacy on devolution by  
giving people the chance to  
vote on it in isolation, free of  
the conflicting interests of a  
general election. A White  
Paper backed by a "yes" vote  
might progress faster through  
the Commons than cumber-  
some legislation argued point  
by point. A referendum was

Tony Blair's referendum move led John McAllister to leave Labour's front bench

the right way to decide sub-  
stantial constitutional change.There is, of course, some  
force to all this, and straw  
polls yesterday suggested no  
great hostility to it from the  
average citizen, though some  
said that, since devolution  
was Labour's most distinctive  
Scottish policy, surely a gen-  
eral election was enough. Some-  
one called it the "Are you sure  
you mean it?" referendum.Nevertheless, the heart is  
winning outright and the  
anguish among the Labour  
Party faithful palpable. It is  
partly the decision itself, partly  
the way it was taken. The  
fact that no one in the Scottish  
party knew anything until the  
policy was leaked on Tuesday  
has caused huge offence.  
The resignation of John McAllister  
from the front bench was  
prompted as much by the factthat he first heard of it from a  
Liberal Democrat — who had  
read about it in the papers —  
as by the decision itself.Mr Robertson's press con-  
ference on Thursday com-  
pounded rather than dispel-  
led the suspicion that this was  
an idea which stemmed from  
Tony Blair's inner cabinet  
rather than from the party in  
Scotland. The Shadow Sec-  
retary's body language — rarely  
can so many glasses of water  
have been so nervously  
sipped during a public grill-  
ing — was hardly that of a  
man confidently announcing  
a brave new policy. Rather it  
suggested a politician with his  
arm twisted halfway up his  
back.Senior Labour sources pray  
that the row raging in Scot-  
land will die down rapidly,  
and the merits of the decisionbecome apparent. At the mo-  
ment that seems unlikely.  
Valuable ammunition has  
been handed to Labour's op-  
ponents — the Scottish Na-  
tionalists see it as playing into  
their hands, and Scottish Sec-  
retary Michael Forsyth's glee  
is positively indecent.The affair has reinforced  
the impression that the Lab-  
our leadership is equivocal  
about devolution. It means  
the tax-raising powers of a  
Scottish parliament, to be the  
subject of a second question,  
will probably fall, depriving  
the parliament of fiscal inde-  
pendence. And it suggests that  
Mr Blair is more concerned  
about English backbenchers  
than about Scottish opinion.Labour has a lot of ground  
to make up if it is to recapture  
Scottish hearts and minds —  
and not much time to do it.

## Clinton

Collected from page 1  
Clinton were late for their  
inauguration ceremonies be-  
cause they were arguing about  
Mrs Clinton's desire for a  
White House office tradition-  
ally reserved for the Vice-  
President. Mr Clinton pur-  
portedly wanted her that Vice-  
President Clinton was so angry  
that he might resign and Mrs  
Clinton back down.Citing a highly-placed,  
credible source, Mr Aldrich  
alleges that Mr Clinton —  
known in the White House as  
"Queen Hillary" — was given  
unprecedented power and a  
strong say in domestic policy  
in return for "standing by her  
man" after General Clinton  
claimed that she had a year-  
long affair with Mr Clinton's  
brother, the late Senator  
Rock. The deal was allegedly  
struck before the 1992 election  
with Lloyd Cutler, former  
White House counsel, acting  
as broker.On Mrs Clinton's alleged  
affair, Mr Livingstone is  
quoted as saying that Mr  
Foster thought his career and  
marriage would be ruined if it  
surfaced. "He was worried  
about it," Mr Livingstone  
reportedly said.Mr Aldrich's job at the  
White House was to clear the  
background of presidential  
appointees. He claims that  
there were sex and drugs  
shenanigans among young  
Clinton staffers, many of  
whom lacked security clear-  
ance but had access to secret  
documents, and he contends  
that security was so lax that he  
found evidence of "wilful en-  
dangerment" of the President  
and national security.Mr Aldrich also writes ex-  
tensively about Mr Living-  
stone, a former bar bouncer  
whom he opposed as head of  
personnel security. But he  
says he was overruled and  
told: "It's a done deal. Hillary  
wants him."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Ordination  
postponedThe ordination of a trainee  
priest has been postponed  
after he confessed in a tele-  
vision documentary to a pro-  
miscuous past and to having  
attended Sheffield's Nine  
O'Clock Service. The Right  
Rev David Standcliffe, Bishop  
of Salisbury, has deferred the  
ordination of Chris Row-  
berry, 37, due to take place at  
the cathedral today.

## Judge charged

A circuit judge was charged  
yesterday with conspiracy to  
defraud mortgage lenders  
with a series of dishonest  
applications when he was a  
solicitor in the Eighties. Judge  
Richard Gee, 53, from Chel-  
sea, west London, was re-  
manded on bail by Bow Street  
magistrates until September  
27.

## Irish reward

The employers of the mur-  
dered Irish journalist Veron-  
ica Guerin offered a £100,000  
reward for information lead-  
ing to conviction of the gang  
responsible for her death on  
Wednesday. Detectives be-  
lieve that a leading Dublin  
criminal, known as the Ware-  
house Man, ordered the  
shooting.

## Modahl win

Diane Modahl, the athlete  
cleared in March of taking  
drugs, won another step in  
her claim for £480,000 dam-  
ages and costs from the Brit-  
ish Athletic Federation. At the  
High Court, Mr Justice  
Popplewell rejected the BAF's  
argument that her action  
showed no reasonable cause  
and was "doomed to failure".

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# Life in millionaire's garden was no bed of roses



Anthony and Ann Jolley, left, who were sacked by the de Ferrantis, right, after they claimed their gardens had become a "frightful mess". The Jolleys said they worked a 70-hour week on the couple's 1,000-acre estate in Cheshire

By KATE ALDERSON

## 'They complained the marigolds were common'

A MULTIMILLIONAIRE'S dream of creating spectacular gardens to complement his Renaissance-style mansion went sour after his wife clashed with their gardeners, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Sebastian de Ferranti, former chairman of the defence contractors Ferranti and a director of GEC, and his wife, Naomi, sacked Anthony and Ann Jolley after they claimed the gardens became a "frightful mess". Relations between Mrs de Ferranti, who gave herself the title of head gardener, and the Jolleys began to decline last summer when they tired of working 70-

hour weeks and found Mrs de Ferranti dogmatic, rude and arrogant, the tribunal in Manchester was told.

Mrs Jolley, 29, said: "Mrs de Ferranti's complaints were totally illogical. Although she chose and purchased seed varieties, peas were too big or too small and pods would not 'pop'... not enough carrots or too big; courgettes, we had grown too many; beetroot, two varieties, both too big; shallots and onions, we had grown too many; raspberries, far too many; bedding plants such as the African and French

marigolds, too many — they were common."

Mr Jolley, 45, a gardener with 22 years' experience, and Mrs Jolley, with 12 years' experience, claim they were unfairly dismissed last October after working on the Ferrantis' 1000-acre estate at Henbury Hall, Macclesfield, Cheshire for three years. The hall, based on Palladio's 16th-century Villa Rotunda in Vicenza, northern Italy, was built by the de Ferrantis between 1984 and 1986.

Both parties are at odds over how much of the estate was gardened by

the Jolleys. The Ferrantis, who arrived at the hearing in a chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royce, claim the gardeners worked on three acres while the Jolleys claim they tended up to 20 acres and worked in other areas.

Mrs Jolley said that when she arrived in 1992 the gardens were neglected and they never had any help other than from temporary assistants. But they had a great deal of pride in their work and were rewarded by the results they achieved.

"I confirm that people such as

Prince Charles and very many others pronounced their approval and Prince Charles was given some special plants from the greenhouse that I had propagated," she said. She added that the Duke of Edinburgh had requested Alpine strawberries, grown from seed by the Jolleys. Mrs Jolley said Mrs de Ferranti would take all of the compliments made about the gardens.

Mrs Jolley said problems arose last August after an open day at the Hall, at which the gardens were highly praised. She alleged that

Mrs de Ferranti would give out endless lists of tasks and scream, stamp her foot and wag her finger: "She seemed at these times to be totally out of control."

The tribunal, which resumed yesterday after being adjourned in April, had been told by Mrs de Ferranti that the Jolleys had initially been hardworking and "first class" but then became uncooperative and contractors had to be brought in.

After the Jolleys cut down their working hours to around 50 hours a week, jobs were not done and the

state of the gardens deteriorated, Carole Grant-Garwood, the Ferrantis' solicitor, said yesterday.

Mrs Grant-Garwood said that despite attempts by Mrs de Ferranti to find out what was wrong the relationship between employer and employee all but broke down. She said that the Jolleys had agreed that "areas of the garden were not as they may have been" in the period prior to their dismissal.

The de Ferrantis have also contested Mrs Jolley's claim for equal pay to her husband. Mr Jolley used to earn £104.50 a week, net, while Mrs Jolley earned £126 per week, net. The tribunal reserved its decision.

## V&A will give all for Becket casket

By DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE director of the Victoria and Albert Museum pledged yesterday to save the historic St Thomas à Becket casket for the nation even if it meant that the museum would have nothing for acquisitions in future years.

"There will be nothing available for routine purchases in the future," Dr Alan Borg said. "In 'mortgaging' our acquisitions funds for future years, we are prepared to risk being reduced to failing to buy something else that might need to be saved."

The 1900s casket, set in spectacular Limoges enamel, is believed to have held a relic of Becket. It will be sold at Sotheby's on Thursday for an estimated £1.5 million. That is more than the museum's government grant, which has to cover running costs and acquisitions.

The gallery is seeking a private treaty sale and hopes to approach Sotheby's and the seller, the British Rail Pension Fund, on Monday with "a definite offer". Susan Adeane, company secretary of the pension fund, said the fund wanted to help the museum to acquire it by offering "fair credit terms". The money could be paid in instalments.

The gallery has been inundated with offers of help, mostly of between £5 and £20. At this stage, Dr Borg said, far higher sums were needed and



Borg: urgently seeking further private funds

there was no time for an appeal. He is in talks with the main funding bodies. "If the Lottery ever existed for a purpose, this should be it. Institutions should not be forced on to their uppers to make the mechanism work."

The Heritage Lottery Fund has promised to pay 75 per cent but raising the final 25 per cent was the hard part. Dr Borg said the purchase grant at present was "effectively zero" because the museum had committed three years' of funds to *The Three Graces*.

The National Art Collections Fund has offered a grant of £100,000 towards the cost. Its director, David Barrie, said: "We are working flat out to help identify additional sources of funding to help the V&A close the gap in its campaign to save the casket."

Simon Jenkins, page 22  
Letters, page 23

## Prison for woman who hit lawyer with peas

By CAROL MIDDLEY

A WOMAN who hurled a tin of peas across a courtroom hitting a barrister on the head has been jailed for three months.

After the attack Tom Fitzpatrick had to leave Manchester Crown Court with his head swathed in bandages to get hospital treatment for a cut. The 23-year-old woman had aimed the tin at his client, who had just been cleared of sexually abusing her niece.

Yesterday Judge William Morris said that her contempt of court must be severely punished despite the fact that Mr Fitzpatrick had telephoned him to say that he sympathised with her and had forgiven her.

The woman, who cannot be named, was in court on Tuesday when the defendant was cleared on the directions of the judge after the seven-year-old girl had been through the ordeal of giving evidence. As the man was about to leave the dock, members of the girl's family became angry and threatened him. The woman then threw the tin of peas.

Judge Morris told her yesterday: "Mercifully Mr Fitzpatrick was not seriously injured. He has very decently expressed some understanding for what led to your actions. His attitude, though, does not affect the fact of your contempt."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

## The Clintons and the psychic, by Bob Woodward



Bob Woodward, the celebrated reporter, begins the full story of what happened after Bill and Hillary Clinton brought a psychic into their home...

News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow

## Bribes detective jailed for 11 years

By RICHARD DUCE

A CORRUPT police officer who traded sensitive information about the international criminal Kenneth Noye was jailed yesterday for 11 years. The exposure of former Detective Constable John Donald is the worst-known case of corruption within police ranks for almost 20 years.

Donald, 37, was offered bribes totalling almost £60,000 by professional criminal Kevin Cressey after he was arrested on a drugs charge. Cressey, 38, was jailed yesterday for seven years on charges of corruption and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Passing sentence on Donald at the Old Bailey, Mrs Justice Steel told him: "The sentence must not only punish you but deter any other police officer who may be tempted." She said his "greatest betrayal" had been to compromise a sensitive operation which involved the undercover surveillance of Noye and his friend, Michael Lawson, on suspicion of running drugs into Britain from the United States.

The court was told that Donald, a member of the South-east Regional Crime

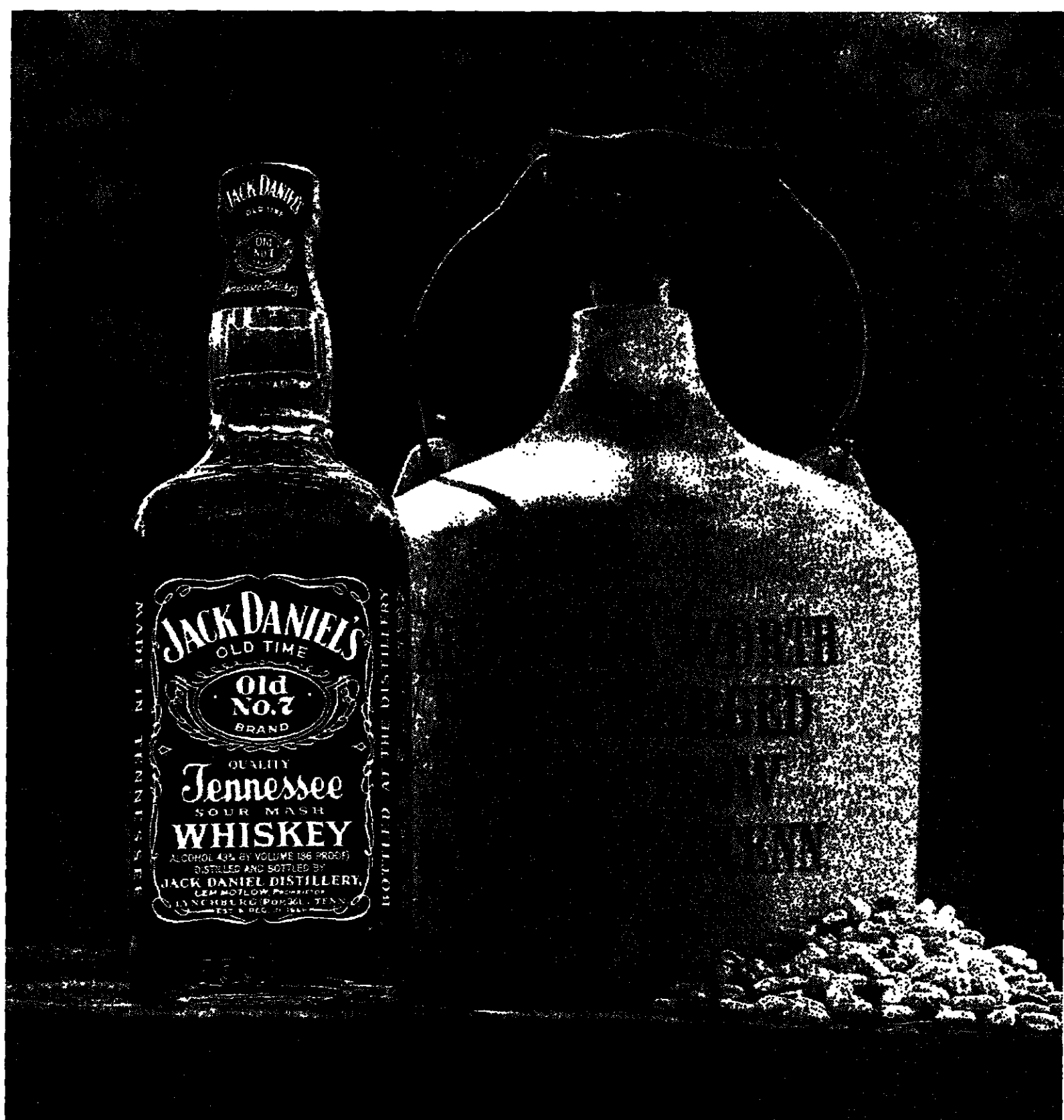
Squad, tried to negotiate a £10,000 payment through Cressey to pass on information to the two alleged drug-runners that they were being watched. That money never changed hands.

Donald, who admitted four corruption charges, has been on remand waiting for the conclusion of Cressey's two-month trial. As a former police officer, his life in Brixton Prison is likely to be tough.

The jury could not agree on a verdict against Cressey on a charge of possessing drugs which related to his original arrest in 1992. The jury was discharged and Cressey, of Ditton, Kent, faces the possibility of a retrial.

After the case, Commander Roy Clark of the South East Regional Crime Squad said: "Donald sold operational secrets to those involved in organised crime that put the lives of police officers at risk."

Noye, who served eight years for handling bullion from the £26 million Brink's-Mat raid, is wanted for questioning about the "road rage" killing of Stephen Cameron on an M25 slip road.



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THE few minutes before the start of the Euro Cup final between England and Germany on Saturday night could not have been more tense. At the climax of the game, the English players were expected to be in the stadium where they were to play. Support for the Czechs was however, limited to a few hundred by the stadium's security forces.

A police spokesman said there would be a large crowd on duty in the West End around the stadium. The situation would not be relaxed down because England were not playing. He said that porters in turn up early and alcohol and food for the nation to buy their tickets from. Ladbrokes, the official bookmaker, offered strong support for the Czechs at odds of 11/5 compared with

PRADA



# Comprehensive defeat for Wimbledon class barrier

By JOANNA BALE

The changing face of Britain was underscored yesterday when Wimbledon's Centre Court hosted a match between two home-grown players for the first time in 58 years.

When Bunny Austin beat Eric Filby in 1938, tennis was a preserve of the upper classes. Yesterday's match pitted Tim Henman, 31, privately educated son of an Oxford solicitor, against Luke Milligan, 19, a taxi driver's son who learnt to play tennis at comprehensive school. When rain stopped play last night, Henman led 6-1, 6-3, 5-4.

Henman's family includes four former Wimbledon players. Milligan took up tennis seriously just four years ago after he failed to win a place with Tottenham Hotspur Football Club.

Both families were at the Centre Court yesterday. Jim Milligan, 48, who drove his family to the tournament in his black cab, said: "We are really proud of Luke. We have all worked hard to help him. It's only what any parents would have done."

Mr Milligan works ten



Home-grown talent: Henman, left, and Milligan

hours a day, seven days a week, to finance his son's tennis, along with other family responsibilities at their four-bedroom Edwardian house in Muswell Hill, north London.

The family have sacrificed holidays and other luxuries. "He was playing in Nottingham recently so Joan rented a house up there and that was our holiday," Mr Milligan said. His other children, Nina, 16, Sarah, 15, and Peter, 12 — also a keen tennis player — watch their brother compete.

Paddy Haddow, Milligan's former PE teacher at Fortismere Comprehensive, Mus-

well Hill, said yesterday: "Luke was a fantastic pupil. When he started playing tennis seriously and winning tournaments, he was always very modest about it."

Milligan, who also enjoys playing the drums, lodges in Brighton where he is coached by Nigel Sears at the Withdean Tennis Centre. Ranked 278 in the world, he was competing at Wimbledon for the first time this year.

Henman is at his third Wimbledon — last year's appearance having been marred by his disqualification for gross code violation after hit-

ting a ball girl when smashing a ball in a fit of temper. He was a boarder at Reed's School, Cobham, Surrey, and began playing tennis at the age of three, encouraged by his mother, Jane, who played junior Wimbledon. By the time he was 11, he was being trained by David Lloyd and has now won at least £100,000 in prize money.

His grandfather, Henry Billington, played Davis Cup and Wimbledon in the 1940s, while his great-grandmother Ellen Mary Stawell-Brown wowed polite society when she became the first woman to serve overarm at Wimbledon. One of her children, Susan, was the last woman to serve underarm at Wimbledon. His father Tony represented Oxfordshire at tennis, hockey, squash and cricket.

Henman, whose family live in a detached neo-Georgian house in Weston-on-the-Green, near Oxford, said: "Probably the most important factor from my background was that we had a court at home, and I always had someone to practise with."

Match reports, pages 50, 52



The last time two British players met on the Centre Court: Bunny Austin shakes hands with Eric Filby in 1938

## Players can bank on rich rewards from Euro 96

By DAVID MADDOCK

THE sterling efforts of England's players in Euro 96 could be rewarded with a fortune in pesetas or lire. Every player who helped to reawaken pride in the flag of St George is now on a shopping list, written in Italian or Spanish.

Alan Shearer is the leading goalscorer of the championship and his stock has risen accordingly. A move could break the British or even the world transfer record.

His agent has been inundated with inquiries from the wealthy football barons of Italy and Spain. Shearer is a home-loving lad, but that does not preclude a move. Manchester United, the richest of the domestic teams, is engaged in a courting ritual.

The league champions are prepared to pay Blackburn Rovers, Shearer's club, £12 million to secure the centre forward. They would also be happy to increase his already handsome salary to reflect the riches on offer in Europe: he is the highest-paid footballer in the domestic game, with total earnings of about £25,000 a week.

Other players to have caught the eye of overseas clubs include David Seaman and Steve McManaman. Seaman's heart-stopping efforts in the goalmouth mean he could fetch three times the

£1 million his club, Arsenal, paid for him. McManaman is a coltish winger of the style loved on the Continent, and the floppy-haired Scouser has won particular admiration in Italy.

Gareth Southgate may be remembered forever as the tearful figure who missed that penalty, but the Spanish see him as a match-winner. When England beat Spain in the quarter-final, the Spanish media lauded him, and so did Javier Clemente, the national coach.

"He is England's most influential player, and he would be perfect to play in Spain," Clemente said of the Aston Villa defender. Southgate cost £2.5 million a year ago, but could command twice that should Real Madrid or Barcelona come calling.

The European championship has reminded continental rivals that the country which gave the world the game of football can still play a bit. Franz Beckenbauer said yesterday: "England have been dismissed for a long time, but people will have to rethink after this."

"Your players showed technique and passion, and now you have a team other countries fear again."

Letters, page 23  
Euro 96, pages 46, 47, 52



Vladimir Smicer, a striker in the Czech team that plays Germany in the Euro 96 final tomorrow, married Pavlina Vizkova in Prague yesterday

## English put their cash on Czechs

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE few remaining tickets for the Euro 96 final tomorrow have been snapped up by English football fans who could not bear to miss the climax of the tournament.

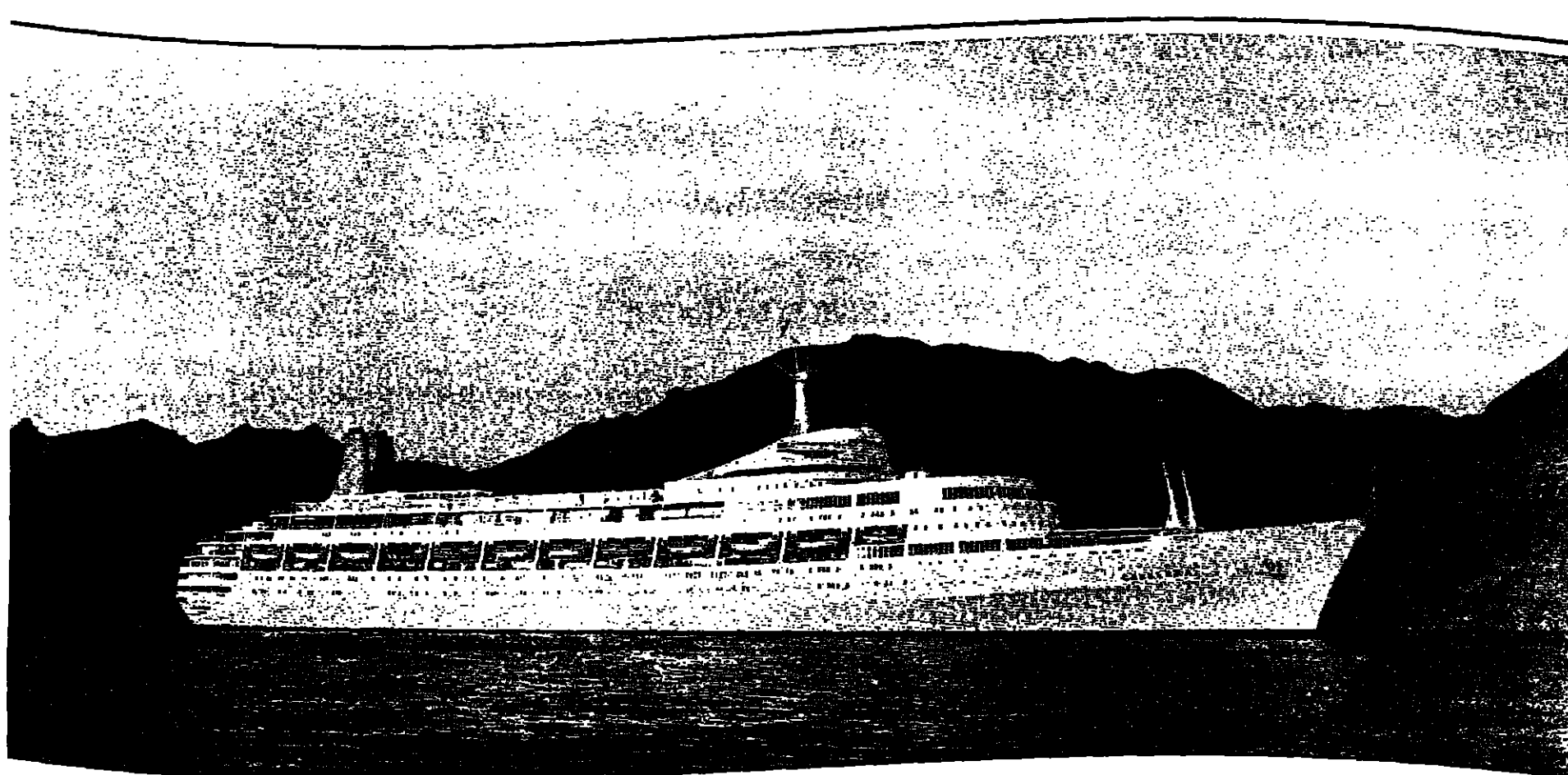
About 11,000 Germans are expected to travel to Wembley, where they will greatly outnumber the 4,000 Czechs. Support for the Czech side, however, is likely to be boosted by thousands of English voices.

A police spokesman said there would be 1,000 officers on duty in the West End and around the stadium. The operation would not be scaled down because England were not playing. He urged supporters to turn up early, avoid alcohol and resist the temptation to buy tickets from touts.

Ladbroke's, the official tournament bookmakers, reported strong support for the Czechs, at odds of 11/5 compared with

the Germans at 1/3. A spokesman said: "The public seem to be behind the Czechs, placing bets in their thousands. We expect the final to generate £2 million in bets, which will be the icing on the cake. Euro 96 has already become Britain's biggest ever betting event with stakes of over £80 million."

William Hill agreed that it was the biggest betting event but calculated the amount gambled at £60 million. A spokesman said: "If England had reached the final it's likely that up to a further £5 million would have been staked. However, it's already outstripped every gambling event other than the 1994 World Cup, which had many more matches and lasted longer, and has become the first sporting event held in Britain to outstrip the Grand National in betting terms."



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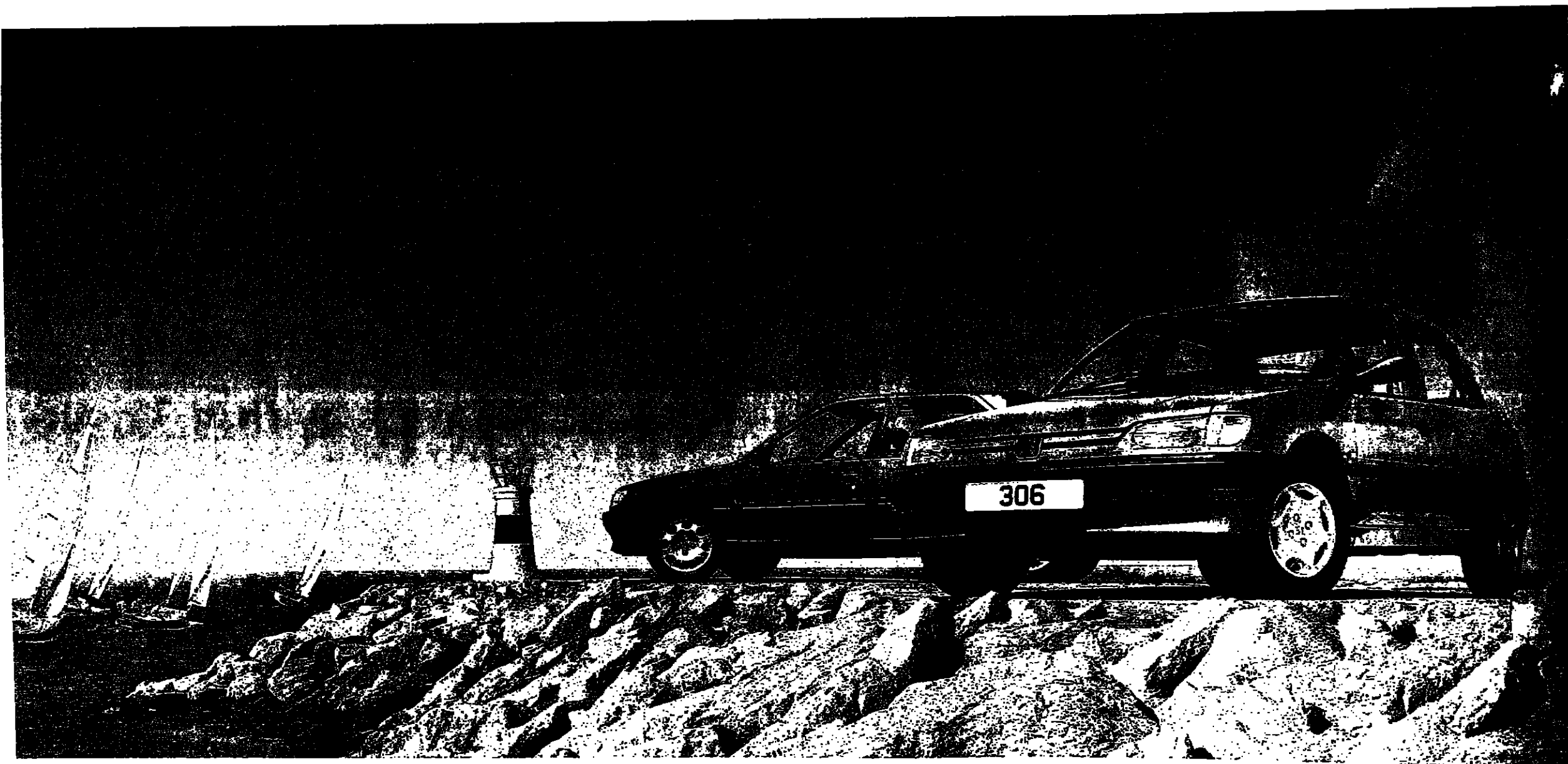
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Age 'warriors'  
made pupils steal

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# One third of girls aged 13 are afraid of being bullied

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

FEAR of bullying makes going to school a traumatic ordeal for one third of teenage girls and a quarter of boys, a survey discloses.

Researchers at Exeter University admitted they were saddened to find such high numbers of children afraid of victimisation. The report, published yesterday, follows their findings last month that one in five secondary school boys regularly carries a weapon, usually a knife, for protection.

In detailed questions to 5,500 13-year-olds, children who were conscientious about school emerged as those most likely to be living in fear of bullies. Victims tended to have poor self-esteem or low self-confidence, often followed solitary pursuits such as spending time with pets and, especially among boys, were more likely to have poor personal hygiene.

Short children were most

likely to be victims and tall children least likely. The youngest child in a family was not the most bullied; researchers speculated that that could be because they were used to fighting their own corner at home, or because older siblings looked after them.

David Regis, of the Schools Health Education Unit at Exeter, which carried out the survey at 60 schools, said: "This is not cheery reading at all. We felt quite gloomy pondering on our findings."

The researchers concluded that fear of bullying was unacceptably high and could be reduced. One suggestion for easing tensions was a trip away: "Sometimes even whole groups involved in residential experience away from home and school become noticeably gentler with one another."

Last year the telephone counselling service ChildLine

received 14,000 calls from children over bullying. A spokeswoman for the service said: "We receive more calls about bullying than anything else and it remains a massive problem. It is obvious parents and teachers are not doing enough about it. Children need adult intervention, it rarely stops of its own accord."

In all, the Exeter unit questioned 11,000 children and those who said they were sometimes, often or very often afraid of bullies fell from 26.6 per cent of boys and 34.5 per cent of girls at the age of 13 to 15.9 per cent of boys and 17.2 per cent of girls at 16.

The detailed survey of 13-year-olds revealed physically more active boys and girls were less worried about victimisation, as were those who visited the doctor least often. When girls were asked about their attitude towards their weight, the highest level of fear of bullying was among the 6.8 per cent who wanted to put on weight.

Victims' hobbies were most likely to be caring for pets, writing for pleasure and playing a musical instrument. Activities of children not concerned about bullying included watching videos, listening to tapes, reading magazines, meeting friends and sport.

Dr John Balding, the research director, said: "I have heard horrendous stories about children hanging themselves, being beaten up, suffering broken bones. We are now hearing from lots of distressed people who want to be listened to, it is dreadful."

The survey found about 5 per cent of children, when asked who they could confide in, believed they could not trust a single adult.

Dr Balding added: "It is so sad. Across the five year groups that we sampled it is the youngest ones who are the most afraid of being bullied. The weakest get weaker, it is like the law of the jungle. Those who are more often ill and on medication are those who fear bullying. They are losing sleep, have colds and coughs, skin complaints and worry a lot."

## Teenage 'warriors' made pupils steal

By A STAFF REPORTER

FOUR teenagers, who called themselves the Young Ghetto Warriors, were detained for two years yesterday for bullying and robbing schoolboys.

The victims, known to their attackers as Joys, were robbed or were forced to steal for the gang. One 15-year-old was abducted outside his school and taken to a deserted flat, where he was terrorised for three hours and threatened with a knife.

Anthony Longden, for the prosecution, said that the boy was told 15 years would be cut off unless he stole from cars driven by women. Fearing for his safety, he grabbed a handbag from a moving car.

The unwilling robber finally managed to escape and telephoned his father, who took him to hospital to be treated for his injuries. The youngest robbery victim was aged 11.

Another attack, on a boy from St Joseph's Academy in Blackheath, southeast Lon-

don, was stopped when a teacher intervened. A knife with an eight-inch blade was found on one of the gang when they were arrested. The incident happened shortly after the death of the headmaster Philip Lawrence.

"Who knows what may have happened to that brave teacher," Detective Sergeant Peter Foley said outside court. "Since these arrests this type of crime seems to have stopped in this area. We have sent out the right message."

Yesterday the four gang members — Jason Grant, 16, Claston Gordon, 17, Gregory Powell, 15, and Claude Murray — admitted conspiracy to steal by coercion last autumn. The boys, from Lewisham and New Cross, also variously pleaded guilty to charges including robbery and assault. They were sent to a young offenders' institution for two years. Two other gang members were also detained.



Tuning up: Huw Weston, Sarah Price, and Olive Thomas, right, of the Prince's Trust rock school chorus rehearsing in Hyde Park for today's MasterCard Masters of Music Concert, which stars Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend of The Who, Eric Clapton, Bob Dylan and Alanis Morissette. A crowd of 150,000 is expected

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Bat that bit women did have rabies

The bat which bit two women last month had rabies, the Agriculture Ministry confirmed yesterday. A spokesman said that it was rare for that particular form of rabies to be passed to humans.

The ministry was announcing the result of the last of six tests on the Daubenton's bat, which bit the women at Newhaven, East Sussex, after crossing from the Continent. The victims, who were trying to rescue it, have been given anti-rabies jabs.

#### Tube strikes

London Underground drivers plan a second 24-hour strike on Wednesday, followed by more on July 8 and 16. Leaders of their union, Aslef, rejected an invitation by London Transport to take their claim for a shorter working week to arbitration.

#### Fewer fire deaths

The number of people killed in fires is at the lowest level for more than 30 years. Official figures for 1994 show that 676 people died in fires, 475 of them in their own homes. The drop is attributed to more households installing smoke detectors.

#### Asthma victory

Two welders who developed asthma from fumes in a carriage works at York have won damages from the BR Board. Steve Sharp, 39, was awarded £100,000 and Nigel Cox, 30, an undisclosed sum in an out-of-court settlement. The works is now closed.

#### PC took tea fund

A constable was caught stealing from a tea fund when colleagues at Tooting, south London, set up surveillance cameras. Southwark Crown Court was told, Stephen Badman, 35, was given a conditional discharge for taking £18.22 and faces dismissal.

#### Ewe turns nasty

A parachutist had emergency surgery after being burred by a sheep in a field. Alison Pearson, 28, from Edinburgh, landed safely after jumping from 13,500ft near Nottingham but suffered chest injuries when the Suffolk-cross ewe panicked and charged.

## Inquiry into boy's death on field trip

By PAUL WILKINSON



Barber: his body was found under waterfall

POLICE and safety experts were yesterday attempting to discover how a schoolboy experienced in outdoor activities died during a supervised trip to the Yorkshire Dales.

The body of Richard Barber, 13, was found in a pool at the foot of Buckden Ghyll waterfalls in Upper Wharfedale where he had been taking part in abseil training.

He was missed from a group of ten pupils from Ladderbanks Middle School in Baildon, West Yorkshire, as they walked to the water-

fall. The activity leader and two teachers supervising the exercise ordered a search and shortly after his body was seen in the water. A teacher could not resuscitate him.

Chris Barber, Richard's father, said: "If blame lies anywhere we want to know where. Like any parent of any child, we want to know what happened. Richard was a boy who was full of life and spirit and this has devastated the family."

"I don't know if he was abseiling or walking to a place where they were abseiling. He became separat-

ed from the party." Mr Barber, 42, himself an outdoor skills instructor and the assistant leader of his son's Scout group, said Richard was probably the most experienced youngster in the party. "He loved climbing, canoeing and walking. He had been with me many times."

John Ryan, chairman of the education committee of Bradford council, which owns the outdoor centre at Buckden where Richard was on a five-day outdoor programme, said: "We are waiting for reports from the police and Health and Safety Executive."

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☐ Shy ☐ Reliable

☐ Romantic ☐ Adventurous

6. How would people who know you best describe you?

☐ always ready for a joke

☐ somewhat dreamy

☐ never has problems

☐ takes life a bit too seriously

☐ not easily upset

☐ always active

☐ chatty

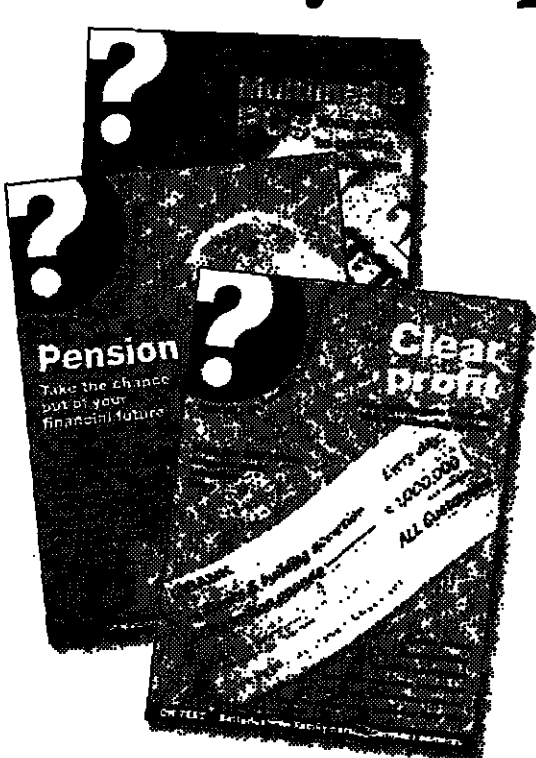
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# Judge condemns 'scandal' of caution for young robbers

BY MICHAEL HORNSWELL

POLICE were criticised yesterday for merely cautioning juveniles who have committed serious offences.

At Birmingham Crown Court, Simon Readhead, the Assistant Recorder, expressed concern that two youths who admitted to robbing two people at knifepoint last November had only been reprimanded by police. The judge sent their accomplice Neil Thompson, 16, who had not co-operated with officers, to a young offenders' institution.

Mr Readhead said: "It is scandalous not to prosecute the other two [youths]. Robbery at knifepoint in a public place and making threats to kill must be seen to be a very serious offence. It is the sort of offence that makes people afraid to go out at night."

The judge said the two other youths, who have not been identified, were of a similar age and one had admitted to police it had been a joint decision to rob.

The youths had knocked on a car window to ask for a light.

They became abusive when refused and got into the vehicle.

Simon Brand, for the prosecution, said: "It was an appalling decision to treat a knifepoint robbery as a cautionable offence." It was clear all three youths were involved in a joint enterprise, and one of the boys had admitted they all agreed to commit the crime.

Earlier, Sir Ronald Hadfield, Chief Constable of the West Midlands force, backed the increased use of police cautions for juveniles. "People have one chance and I would view with abhorrence putting more people in front of the courts. Those that need to go to court will go to court," he said.

Sir Ronald's annual report disclosed that two juvenile offenders were cautioned for rape in the West Midlands, while more than 1,000 arrested for wounding were cautioned. Other serious offences for which juveniles received cautions included three cases of arson, and 125 cases of robbery and assault.

Richard Burden, Labour

MP for Birmingham, Northfield, said: "Cautions can be highly effective but there is a cut off point when it comes to serious offences. If a youngster is blatantly guilty of a serious offence and is given just a caution, that is sending the wrong message to his peers that you can get away with it."

Warren Hawtrey, Conservative MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge, expressed outrage and said he was taking up the matter with the Chief Constable. "The cautioning policy is not intended for serious offences."

Superintendent Pat Wing, of West Midlands Police, said police would look at the judge's comments. "A caution is not intended to be a 'let off' and it means people can be put before the courts if they offend again." Some cases "on paper appear to be unsuitable for a caution", he said; the Home Office guidelines say that a caution is inappropriate in cases of rape. But in some cases, exceptions could be made, he added.



The replica Endeavour: space for four passengers



Officer class: the ship's reconstructed Great Cabin, and Captain James Cook

## The £15,000 Cook's tour that offers rough without smooth

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT  
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

RUGGED travellers who have £15,000 and three months to spare can sail on one of the least luxurious cruises ever advertised — from Capetown to London on board a replica of Captain Cook's Endeavour.

Four passenger berths have been fitted out, complete with hammocks, exactly as they were when Captain Cook charted New Zealand and the east coast of Australia two centuries ago.

"The Endeavour is the most authentic replica ship in the world," said Richard Ormond, director of the National Maritime Museum.

which is arranging passenger trips that will also include shorter and cheaper legs between British ports.

"The tour gives an opportunity for people to experience the conditions under which Cook and his men made their voyages. We have learnt a great deal about life at sea through Endeavour."

The replica, which was constructed to the specifications of the original using plans held at the museum, took six years to build and was launched Fremantle, Western Australia, in 1993. The first leg of the voyage to Britain will leave Fremantle in October for Durban, which will take two months and cost passengers £10,000. After being exhibited around South Africa, the ship will sail for London in January next year, arriving on March 25. She will then spend seven months sailing around Britain, when four passengers can be accommodated for each of 15 legs at a cost of more than

£1,000 a trip. A short sail from Great Yarmouth to Whitby, for example, will cost £1200, although anyone with sailing experience can apply to join the crew for £325.

Although the food will be of high quality, and the ship will be fitted with the latest navigation equipment, there will be no more luxury than modern lavatories.

The original ship, HMS Bark Endeavour, was a three-masted collier converted to accommodate scientific expeditions. Cook reached New Zealand in 1770 and charted the North and South Islands before continuing west and anchoring in Botany Bay, Australia. His charts were so accurate they can still be used today, and the long voyage was the first that did not lose a man to scurvy.

At each British port Endeavour will be open to visitors who will be able to experience the conditions that more than 90 crew endured for three years.

## Bond film-maker Broccoli dies

BY JOE JOSEPH

ALBERT R. BROCCOLI, better known as Cubby and best known as the film producer who turned James Bond into a glamorous, womanising daredevil, died at home in Beverly Hills on Thursday after a long illness. He was 87.

In Broccoli's hands, Bond not only became the recognised shorthand for "secret agent" but his stunts became the Hollywood benchmark for tongue-in-cheek action movies. Every leading man from Schwarzenegger to Willis has paid homage. More remarkably, Broccoli seems to have been that rarity in Hollywood, a well-liked producer.

Honor Blackman, Pussy Galore in *Goldfinger*, said yesterday: "He was always the gentle, kindly uncle of the Bond films. You always felt you could go to Cubby about any problem and he would understand. He loved women and he was always very courteous and thoughtful."

Desmond Llewelyn, Q of the Bond movies, recalls Broccoli as a wonderful person. "He was very kind, extremely generous. All the success of the Bond films are down to him. He will be a great loss to the film industry, not only for all the Bond films, but also all the other films he made, like *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

From Russia With Love

was my first film and Cubby was there with Ian Fleming on the first day. Someone with a small role like me wouldn't normally get to meet the producer, but he came up and said hello."

Gordon Arnell, marketing director of Broccoli's London-based Eon Productions, said: "He was very much the head of the family and in our business that is unique. At the peak of a Bond film there could be up to 600 people working on the production and he knew most of them by name. On *Goldeneye* there were cases of three generations of the same family working together."

Obituary, page 25



Broccoli set benchmark for action movies



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# The Somme: 'You may rest assured that should I get pipped I shall have done my duty'

## Veterans gather to recall bloodiest battle of them all

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

### MONDAY'S TIMES

MORE than 3,000 people, some of them veterans aged more than 100, will gather at the Somme over the weekend to remember those who laid down their lives in one of the most sacrificial battles of the First World War.

The eightieth anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, which began on July 1, 1916, is attracting both young and old, according to the Royal British Legion. It is organising a pilgrimage to the graves and a service in the open air at Thiepval in northern France where a great arched memorial lists 70,000 men who died in the battle but were never formally buried.

The number of members of the First World War Veterans Association going to Thiepval is expected to be 12 men and one woman. Dorothy Huntley-Flinn, 98, the grandmother of Richard Branson, who drove ambulances during the

war. Yet many young people have contacted the Legion in recent days, wanting to join them to pay their respects to those who gave their lives.

Yesterday, a small band of frail veterans gathered to cross the Channel to the scene of the Army's bloodiest battle, stopping to pay tribute to their dead comrades at a simple service in Dover.

Some in wheelchairs, others leaning heavily on walking sticks, they spoke of the need to remember. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, who led the service, said he was

humbled by their courage. "We owe these men an enormous debt. It is astonishing to think about what they did."

The soldiers who went to the Somme were part of the biggest volunteer army in history, poorly trained and most not even 21. The memories of the fighting are still too great for one veteran, who cannot face making the trip.

George "Smiler" Marshall, 99, from Ashstead in Surrey, said: "Every night we would have to bring back our mates, dig a hole for them and bury them just as they were."

Mr Marshall, a cavalryman, lost his brother in the battle. "It was simply horrific. The conditions were appalling and there were bodies everywhere. I can't go back."

The Duke of Gloucester will be representing the Queen at the service of remembrance at 10.30am on Monday, and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, will represent the Government and the Ulster regiments.

Representatives from a number of regiments, including 107 Northern Ireland Brigade (Territorial Army), the Ulster TA Band, a piper from the Scots Guards and buglers from the Royal Welch Fusiliers, will attend.

The British Ambassador to France, Sir Christopher Mallaby, and Brigadier Charles Ritchie, the military attaché in Paris, representing General Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff, will also be attending. The 3,500 people expected will include representatives from Canada, South Africa, New Zealand and the other empire nations which took part in the later stages of the battle.

Colonel David Travers, who is representing the Legion, said: "It was a Pyrrhic victory and it made people realise that we should never fight that sort of war of attrition again. Somme was a turning point."

Leading article, page 23



British troops go over the top in the Battle of the Somme 80 years ago. By the end of the first day almost 20,000 were dead and 38,000 injured

## Decades have not healed pain of needless loss

By ROBIN YOUNG

### Lord Denning remembers brother who died

LORD DENNING, the former Master of the Rolls now aged 97, still mourns the brother he lost on the Somme and the rest of the country's "best young men" sacrificed in the battle.

As a boy, Lord Denning, known as Tom, hero-worshipped his oldest brother, Jack, who taught him cricket and other sports. When war broke out Jack was in the Territorials, where he had found an outlet for his physical and mental abilities and powers of leadership. "He was the best at everything," Lord Denning remembers. At a Territorials' sports day Jack won the 100 yards, though he was the only man to run in "ordinary togs".

Commissioned as a Special Reserve Officer in April 1915, he was posted to France in July. In May 1916, Tom had his only opportunity as a young man to be with Jack when he returned on home leave. They played golf, went to a tennis party and discussed Tom's future. Jack advised against politics. "He

did not think much of politicians," Lord Denning recalls.

On June 26, just before the expected offensive on the Somme, Jack was hit in the head by shrapnel and badly cut, but he insisted on returning to the line before the main attack began on July 1.

While in the trenches Jack was promoted to Acting Captain. On September 24 he learnt that his company of the Lincolnshire Regiment would be involved in an attack the next day. He wrote in pencil a letter home of which Lord Denning says: "It moves me to tears even now."

Jack, then 23, wrote: "This may or may not be my last letter to you, as we are for it I think tomorrow... you may rest assured that should I get pipped I shall have done my duty, and always remember it is far better to die with honour than to live in shame."

Lord Denning says: "He went over the top, leading his men, out in the open against Germans who were well protected in their trenches. He

was hit by shrapnel, through his stomach, and lay for three hours before he was found and taken back to the casualty clearing station. He said to a comrade, 'I'm done for.' He was wandering all night, murmuring of home. He died in the morning of the 26th. They buried him in the cemetery at Heilly-sur-Somme. They stamped out his name on a piece of tin and tacked it to a rough wooden cross."

At home in Whitechurch,

Hampshire, the Denning's mother, Clara, "swooned to the floor when she got the telegram announcing Jack's death", Lord Denning remembers. "He was the best of us, better even than our brother, Reg, who became a general and finished as GOC Northern Ireland." When Tom went to tell Reg himself in an army hospital with shrapnel injuries, "he turned over and sobbed and sobbed". Afterwards Reg dropped his

own name and was known in the Army as Jack instead.

Lord Denning was to visit the Somme himself, after the battle, as a 2nd lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. He said yesterday: "Our generals did very wrong in pitching all our best young men forward as they did, quite regardless of losses."

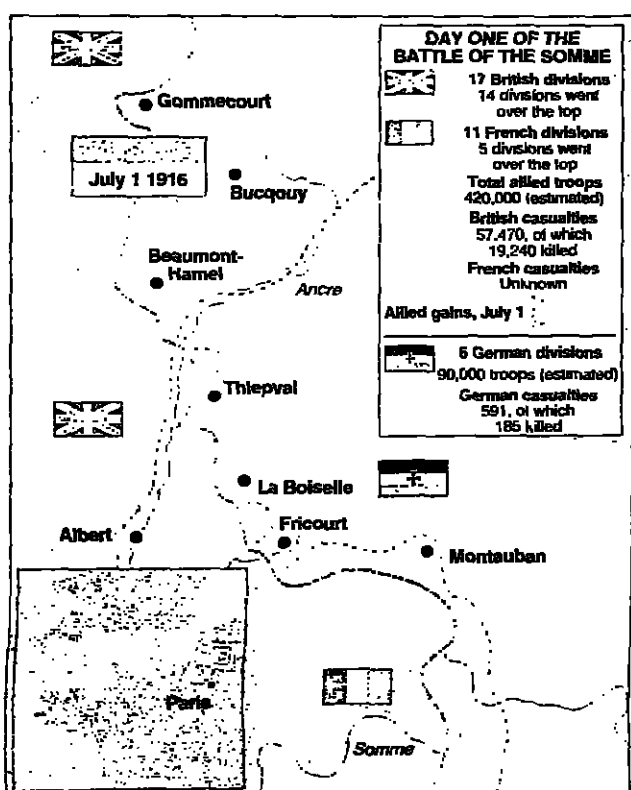
"The graves at Heilly are well kept, but it is so depressing to see such large numbers of our best young men buried there. I still read the names of the fallen in Whitechurch every Remembrance Day - 200 of them from this small town alone. They were a tremendous loss to the nation."

Lord Denning has one poignant regret. He used to finish all his letters to his brothers with the Horatian Latin tag: "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori" - it is sweet and honourable to die for your country."

He says now: "That was an awful thing to write. Jack kept my letters with that in it. It was the way we thought then, but it was wrong. You want to live for your country, not to die for it."



Jack Denning, left, and his brother as a 2nd lieutenant



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## Birdsong gave way to bloody requiem

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE young men who answered Kitchener's call to fight for their country in the euphoric summer of 1914 were to experience on July 1, 1916, the bloodiest day in Britain's military history.

As 14 of Britain's 17 divisions prepared to go over the top, the circling larks could be heard even above the sound of artillery fire. It was going to be a beautifully sunny morning. When they had first arrived in the Somme several months earlier, the soldiers had been surprised at the Englishness of the countryside. There were flowing poppy fields, deep green lanes and wide rolling downs, reminiscent of the southern English shires.

Yet by the end of that first day of the Battle of the Somme, a day of attrition on an unprecedented scale, this corner of a foreign field, covered in poppies and cornflowers, was strewn with the bodies of young men. The British casualty toll was 57,470, of whom 19,240 were killed or mortally wounded.

The Germans suffered 591 casualties, of whom 185 died.

Promptly at 7.30am, in response to innumerable whistles, the British and French force went over the top to cross no man's land towards the deeply bunkered and heavily defended German divisions. The odds seemed in favour of the British and French. The 17 British and 11 French divisions, totalling probably more than 420,000 men, were up against only six German divisions. But the young amateurs of Kitchener's "New Army" battalions were cut down by withering machinegun fire.

The Battle of the Somme was to last until November 18-19, with more than a million casualties on both sides, but that first day of sacrifice has remained, 80 years later, one of the most potent and tragic symbols of war.

□ The Imperial War Museum Book of the Somme, by Malcolm Brown (Sidgwick & Jackson: £20)

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# Minister may export church to beat vandals

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A RETIRED minister who bought his former church to save it for posterity has decided to dismantle the building and ship it to the United States after arsonists destroyed much of his restoration work.

The Rev Norman Valley, 77, had spent his entire savings on Spring Bank Methodist Church at New Mills, in the Derbyshire Peak District. He said: "These attacks are part of our times. It is a terrible age. We can do nothing except look on our churches and weep. It is up to us to preserve our heritage."

One in three churches in Britain can expect to be the target of an attack of some kind each year. Mr Valley hopes that negotiations will now achieve a sale for his church to be reconstructed in the United States.

He was a minister at New Mills from 1951 to 1955, and his father-in-law, the distinguished Methodist scholar Walter B. Hault, ministered there in the 1930s. The church closed in 1980, with some of the congregation joining the local Anglican church. Mr

Valley, who is married with a child and five grandchildren, was living in a £100,000 Victorian mansion in the Isle of Wight, which he also used for the rehabilitation of offenders, when he decided to sell up and move back to Derbyshire five years ago.

He said: "I heard that Jehovah's Witnesses were attempting to purchase the church. I got just enough to buy it and a small home for myself across the valley. I hoped to reopen the building with a fine organ made from materials I had obtained from closed churches."

Three weeks ago, arsonists reduced the church to a burnt-out shell, destroying two valuable organs he had stored there, along with his office, equipment and his £10,000 library of rare theological and historic books.

The building and contents were not insured. He was told that he would be unable to insure an unoccupied building that had already been subject to one arson attack. He is now spending a further £10,000 on his plans to ship it abroad. Mr



The Rev Norman Valley in the church hit by arsonists three weeks ago: "We look on our churches and weep"

Valley said: "Negotiations are taking place to move it stone by stone and re-erect it in the United States." Mr Valley said an agent already had some interested parties. Planning permission is being sought for the demolition.

The church, which seated 350, was converted from two cottages in 1839 as one of the original churches of the Wesleyan movement, named after a minister evicted from his Manchester living during a Methodist schism. New Mills would become the second

Methodist church transported to America in recent years; the chapel where Baroness Thatcher's father preached at Sproston, near Grantham, Lincolnshire, was transported to Baker University in Kansas and is currently being re-erected.

Agents handling such sales are also exploring markets such as Japan, which is experiencing a fashion for English-style weddings, and where a genuine English church could be a crowd-puller. Redundant Church of England churches

are unlikely to go abroad because most are covered by ancient covenants or other restrictions, although just after the war the damaged St Mary Aldermanbury was moved from the City of London to Fulton University to be re-erected and restored.

Mr Valley said: "There is great interest in this project because in America a church like this is almost a congregation-catcher. The stone has not been affected by the fire."

"Vandals have no feeling for good or their fellow men. I

imagine that the people who set fire to that church were watching it burn and enjoying the flames. We have some lovely historic churches in Derbyshire, but some of my colleagues have had to brick up parts to keep out thieves. It is awful."

"We are in a deep trough of sin and despair. People don't seem to bother, so long as they are all right. The only solution will be a spiritual revival."

At Your Service. Weekend, page 15

## Credo

### Why we look to Peter's example

Dr David Hope

Peter is undoubtedly the most prominent and colourful of the 12 disciples. Today he is celebrated throughout the worldwide Church — in some parts of Christendom, following ancient liturgical custom and use, his name is coupled with that of St Paul. Peter has become the main focus in the Church of England for the ordination of those called, chosen and prepared for the sacred ministry.

There is ample testimony about the origins of Peter. He was a native of Bethsaida by the Sea of Galilee and it is as a fisherman that he made his living. Capernaum, another such lakeside town, is the scene of his call to follow Christ, along with Andrew, his brother, and James and John. The Gos-

a distinctive office in the Church of God — both to the diaconate and to priesthood. The example of Peter's life as disciple, apostle and martyr is to be patterned in the lives of those who, having like Peter responded to the Lord's gracious invitation, "follow me", are now commissioned, "feed my sheep".

At a time when the Church itself is much concerned about its own internal organisation, the management of its assets and resources, the celebration of Peteride sets before us the clear fact that the greatest assets and resources of the Church are its people, ordained and lay, and that the primary calling of us all is to a more faithful and sacrificial discipleship, and that the business of the



shepherds, so well expressed in the Ordinal, is to "serve them with joy, build them up in faith, and to do all in your power to bring them to loving obedience to Christ". It is a tall order and one which would be

wholly impossible were it not for the grace given and power of the Holy Spirit — the inward and spiritual grace signified by the outward and visible sign of the laying on of hands.

Peter seems to have been a natural leader, combining those rare qualities of zeal, conviction and the ability to inspire others with a real sense of human folly and weakness. He is passionate, determined and obstinate to the very end: yet at the very end this same obstinacy leads him to denial and reduces him to tears. Paradoxically, the weakness and insecurity on the inside which becomes such strength and conviction on the outside, is his greatest asset.

He becomes a disciple with whom other disciples more readily identify, not least those who, in their own search and journey of faith, experience the jumble and the confusion which comprises that volatile mixture of certainty as well as doubt, even denial.

Given then the warm humanity, the immediacy and the attractiveness of the person, it is hardly surprising that the Church of England should use Peter's celebration day as the focus for those being ordained to

the claim that the Church is apostolic is a direct challenge to much of the inward and introspective thrust of the Church's own agenda. Peteride sets before us both the particular and personal embodiment of Peter's own apostleship as well as the primary task of the Church in every age — its readiness to reach out and go out and to take risks for God and for the Gospel.

Dr David Hope is Archbishop of York

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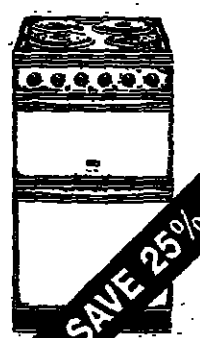
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# Labour drops pledge to increase state pension

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR abandoned its long-standing commitment to raising the basic state pension yesterday.

At the 1992 general election the party promised an increase of £5 a week for single pensioners and £8 for couples. But yesterday Chris Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, suggested that state pensions would remain at their present level, rising only in line with inflation.

Over the past decade Labour has gradually moved away from a costly commitment to raise pensions in line with earnings rather than prices. In 1987 it promised increases as "a step towards" restoring the link with earnings, which was dropped by the Tories in 1980.

Announcing a range of changes to the pension system, Mr Smith said: "We cannot give any specific commitment to any specific figures. What we are saying is that the basic state pension must remain in place and it must not be means-tested. At the very least it will rise in line with inflation, as it has done under the present Government."

Mr Smith also disclosed that Labour had shelved a scheme for a minimum guaranteed pension to help poorer people, which could have increased payments to £85 a week. The basic rate for a single person is now £61.10.

He said the idea, suggested by the Social Justice Commission and backed by Donald Dewar when he was Shadow Social Security Secretary, had been dropped for the moment because of the difficulty in assessing the needs of all 10 million pensioners.

A policy document published yesterday does, however, put forward a scheme to help 600,000 pensioners to claim the income support to which they are entitled. Labour is looking at allowing pensioners to make their

initial claim for income support at post offices, shops and supermarkets, rather than social security offices. Mr Smith emphasised that public spending plans already covered payments to the 600,000 pensioners, who were losing up to £14 a week by failing to make a claim.

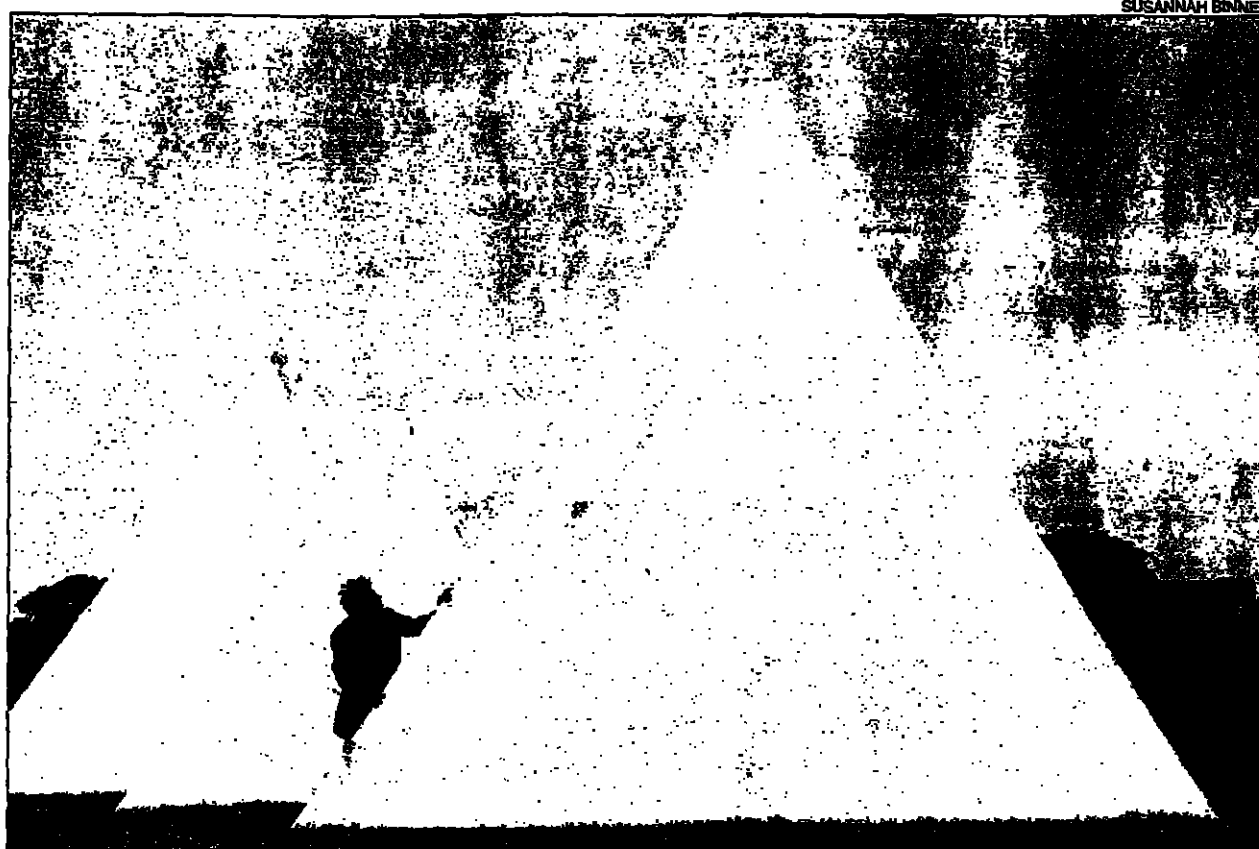
The actual cost of the scheme, however, could be an extra £430 million.

The document, *Security in Retirement*, outlines Labour's plans for a second personal pension on top of the basic state pension. The document proposes an alternative framework to occupational schemes. People would be encouraged to invest in low-cost pension schemes run in partnership with the private sector.

A Labour government would cut the sometimes exorbitant charges made by private companies by legislating for a maximum levy. At present the average charge is 25 per cent of contributions. Mr Smith argues that this should be "much, much lower" — possibly about 10 per cent. He also hopes that firms will automatically reduce their charges through competition.

The pensions would be much more flexible, making it easier for employees to transfer them when they move jobs. Labour would also encourage people to make additional voluntary contributions to the scheme, on top of the 4.8 per cent compulsory element that exists now. It would maintain the present tax breaks for pension contributions, and would allow people to build up a separate account to provide for "life opportunities or life crises".

The savings account would accrue alongside the main pension. Access to it would be allowed before retirement but there would be a tax incentive to leave it untouched. Regular payments could be made out of an employee's salary.



A DEVON council is threatening a farmer with prosecution unless he removes three 20ft pyramids from his land by Wednesday. The pyramids, three-sided structures of steel covered with canvas and shark net, were erected by the installation artist Ben Jones (above) as a commission from Brooke Bond, which recently

## Storm in a 20ft teabag

launched PG Tips in pyramid-shaped teabags. Mid-Devon district council takes the view that the pyramids, though plain white and without lettering, are advertising. But Mr Jones says that they are a work of art and that he

would not have accepted a commission for advertising. "I do not think anyone who sees a 20ft pyramid in a field would think 'That's a teabag'." The pyramids are near the M5 at Hound Valler Farm, Uffculme, which is

owned by Ian Farley. Motorists passing by yesterday said they thought the site was an encampment of New Age travellers. But John Milverton, the council's senior enforcement officer, said: "They might be a fairly subtle form of advertising but that does not excuse it. They are a distraction to motorists."

# Mackay to press ahead with civil court reforms

By FRANCES GIBBS, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, is expected to secure a prime legislative slot before the general election for reforms intended to cut costs and delays in the civil courts.

The reforms, which will give judges wide powers to take control of the speed and running of trials, are based on proposals by Lord Woolf, the law lord, who publishes his civil justice report next month. The Bill may also include some of the proposed legal aid changes to be outlined in a White Paper on Tuesday if ministers consider them likely to win public support.

Lord Woolf wants judges, not lawyers, in the driving seat at trials. He wants them to set timetables and to have the power to appoint expert witnesses. He also wants them to impose cost penalties in cases where parties cause delays unreasonably.

Officials hope that a Bill in the autumn could also provide for the reform of legal aid. Much of next week's White Paper will not require legisla-

tion, but it will be needed for plans to limit the £1.4 billion scheme and remove the present eligibility tests.

The Bill would begin the civil justice revolution that Lord Woolf has outlined. The aim is to encourage out-of-court settlement of disputes via methods such as mediation and arbitration. If cases come to court, judges will become "trial managers" and take over from lawyers the job of dictating the pace.

The Woolf reforms include plans for a fast-track court for civil disputes of up to £10,000, where costs are capped and have to be quoted by lawyers in advance. People will be given help to handle their own cases where possible. Claims of up to £3,000 will go to the small claims court. Those of up to £10,000 will go on to a fast-track with a start-to-finish timetable of 20 to 30 weeks.

Claims of £10,000 or more will go into a multitask system, where judges will hold a case management conference after the defence has been filed to hone down the issues.

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# Clinton prepared to block visas and IRA funding

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

## TERRORISM

PRESIDENT CLINTON is considering a clampdown on Sinn Féin and the IRA after Western leaders at the summit of the Group of Seven top industrialised nations, meeting in Lyons, agreed to unite against organised crime and terrorism.

The White House, which has made contact with Sinn Féin a priority of its Northern Ireland policy, denied there had been any policy change, but senior sources at the State Department said a number of options were under consideration. They include a possible ban on future visits to America by Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, and curtailing further the capabilities of Friends of Sinn Féin and Noraid, the two IRA fundraising organisations in the United States.

Mr Clinton, who delivered his most determined condemnation of terrorism after the deaths of 19 American service-

men in Saudi Arabia this week, sees a strong stance on worldwide terrorism as a boost to his re-election campaign this November.

State Department officials said the Administration was already questioning the extension of work permits to non-Americans employed by the two IRA front organisations. Under the terms of the new Anti-Terrorism Bill, the US Government can curb the activities of any organisation that channels money to international terrorist groups such as Hamas or Hezbollah.

Although this could apply to the IRA, the Friends of Sinn Féin has one employee who is not an American citizen, Mairead Keane, the US representative in Washington. Her office said yesterday there had been no indication of such a plan or that she might be

targeted, but there is no doubt her displacement would send a clear message to the political wing in Ireland. Membership of Noraid is said to be exclusively American.

The White House was resolute that its policy had not changed. "No such thing is happening here or even being discussed," said one official. "And we have not received any visa request from Mr Adams, so that is not under consideration." Nevertheless, Mr Adams's political capital in Washington has been in rapid decline since the IRA ended its ceasefire in February. His position was made more untenable by the Manchester bombing, which left many in the Clinton Administration bewildered and facing the serious dilemma of whether, as one official put it, he was "on the side of the angels or was the Devil incarnate".

In the aftermath of the Docklands and Manchester blasts, there has been a sea change in attitude towards the IRA in America.

Edward Kennedy, the leading Irish-American politician who helped to open dialogue between the United States and Sinn Féin two years ago, refused to see Mr Adams during a recent visit to Washington. This week the senator was even more vehement. "The IRA are no friends of Ireland," said the veteran Democrat. "They are enemies of peace. No amount of IRA rationalising or dissembling can possibly justify their continuation of violence."

□ Bildt's demand: Carl Bildt, the major powers' High Representative for Bosnia, urged world leaders last night to take steps to have Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, arrested in the next week (Michael Binyon writes). He told the G7 leaders that unless Dr Karadzic, facing indictment for war crimes, were removed from all political office, the elections in Bosnia, planned for September 14, could not go ahead. He said the world should impose tough new sanctions on the Bosnian Serbs if they prevented the arrest of Dr Karadzic.

## Lyons leaves no truffle unturned in bravura performance



Paul Bocuse makes way for guards leaving Lyons city hall, where G7 leaders ate dinner, prepared by him and three other top French chefs, in a courtyard

## The Four Chefs offer leaders food for thought

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN LYONS

## GASTRONOMY

THEY have, at least, tried to get away from the overriding obsession. Lyons is presenting itself as a city of technology, commerce, innovation and enterprise.

Prototype Peugeot electric cars are silently gliding in circles outside the conference centre. Water companies that own half Britain's infrastructure are demonstrating their pumps and filters. High-tech firms have filled a tent with flashing screens and access points to Le Web.

It is all to no avail. There is only one thing that truly animates the native Lyonnais and the thousands of visitors

checking the next opportunity to indulge their passion: food. All the corridors talk is of menus, bistros, Michelin stars, vintages, cheeses and truffles. All the brochures have a dazzling display of cheeses on their covers and free recipes for the benighted foreigners who

know nothing of the glory of Lyons. President Clinton, a man of prodigious appetites, could hardly wait. At mid-night he slipped away from the cares of world affairs and the woes of Hillary to tour the streets, dive into the brightly lit restaurants, pump the hands of astonished chefs and well-wishers and snatch up delicacies by the handful, leaving his Secret Service details more used to hamburgers and jogging, bewildered by the gastronomic cornucopia.

The Four Chefs who prepared the famous opening dinner of the summit have, almost overnight, acquired the same folk hero status as the Three Tenors at the Baths of Caracalla. World leaders have said little so far of their encounter with the true defenders of France's world sta-

nus — though Helmut Kohl, posing next to John Major for the family photograph, had the smile of a man who has not visited a health farm for months. The next day the Four Chefs appeared in person to display their talents in front of the salivating cameras.

Paul Bocuse, the Pavarotti of gastronomy, was there in a demonstration tent, behind a glass screen, deftly slicing his confection of cold meats in pastry; later, his chef's hat almost scraping the doorways, he wandered into the press halls to acknowledge the awe-struck recognition of those who have quickly learnt where

true influence lies in France. His fellow masters — Marc Veyrat, Georges Blanc and Pierre Troisgros — exuding no less intimidating authority than they do in their autocratic kitchens, also gave running televised commentaries on how to cook and slice the best poultry, and how to

honour Scottish salmon. France's third city — which has just lost pride of place after Paris to Marseilles — is taking the summit, like the glorious summer weather, in its stride. It has paid the summit wives the kind of floral tribute the French, unashamedly old-fashioned, love to pay to ladies. Each has had a rose named after her.

Bernadette Chirac is honoured with a rose bush with full azalea blooms; the "Hillary", after America's First Lady, is described as a red floribunda which last year won a prize as France's most beautiful rose. Madame Chernomyrdin, managed to give the name "Valentina" to a hybrid tea-rose. But Nomia Major and Hannelore Kohl missed their chance.

## America warned on Cuba trade curbs

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER IN LYONS

## SANCTIONS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC and John Major yesterday intensified European pressure on America not to penalise firms that do business with Cuba, Iran and Libya.

The French leader gave a warning to President Clinton of a "circle of reprisals" if America imposed sanctions against European countries investing in countries it regards as centres of terrorism. He was reported as having told Mr Clinton that he was concerned Europe could get into a situation where it had no choice but to retaliate. But there was no sign yesterday that President Clinton was ready to back down.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and Jean Chrétien, the Canadian Prime Minister, have also levelled protests at the Americans over the implementation of the so-

called Helms-Burton law relating to Cuba and separate legislation affecting Iran and Libya. The dispute has soured behind-the-scenes exchanges at the summit, which has delivered its strongest ever condemnation by world leaders against terrorism. The desire to present a united front will almost certainly mean the issue is fudged in the final communiqué today.

The Americans want to block trade with Cuba, Libya and Iran by imposing sanctions against companies that have contacts with "rogue states". But France and Germany want dialogue and commercial contacts with the countries involved to isolate extremist factions. A senior British government source said yesterday of the American stance: "This is not the right way to go about it."

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# US hunt for terrorists 'hindered by Saudis'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN officials complained yesterday that they were denied access last month to four Saudi terrorists who may have possessed information which could have foiled this week's bomb blast which killed 19 US servicemen.

The four were publicly beheaded on May 31 after confessing to a separate bombing in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, last November in which five Americans and two Indians were killed.

The FBI, the CIA and senior Pentagon officers wanted to talk to the four about their involvement in an Islamic dissident group which opposes the large Western military presence in Saudi Arabia and the Government's autocratic control of the kingdom.

The Americans made strong representations to the notoriously secretive Saudi authorities for permission to see the prisoners.

They hoped that the four would implicate others who might be plotting acts of violence. They also wanted to find out if the group's apparently homegrown terrorism was receiving help from Iraq, Iran, or other Middle Eastern militants.

But, as one American put it, the Saudi co-operation was "far less than we had hoped for". The FBI was particularly upset, having sent a large team of agents to Saudi Arabia after the bombing of the Saudi National Guard training headquarters. The team's expertise and forensic assistance was of considerable value in tracking down the terrorists.

America's ineffectiveness in dealing with the Saudi rebuff underscores that Washington has no ambassador in Riyadh, a particularly sensitive post.

Two weeks ago, President Clinton nominated Wyche Fowler, a former Democratic senator, to fill the vacancy. But Jesse Helms, the often cantankerous Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has set no date for confirmation hearings despite this week's bombing. They could be delayed for months.

American officials continued to insist that they had taken steps to increase security around the blocks of flats housing Americans in Dhahran before a petrol tanker exploded with the force of 5,000lb of TNT last Tuesday.

There is growing criticism that concrete barriers were placed only 35 yards from the building, but officials said that they could not have foreseen such a powerful blast, nor planned for it short of making all members of the American services in Saudi Arabia live in underground bunkers.

Although there was no immediate warning before the bomb, there had been threats and hints of trouble that may not have been taken seriously enough.

□ Dhahran: Diplomats and about 300 American, British and French airmen and women remembered their 19 US comrades killed in the blast at an emotional memorial service here yesterday and prayed for God to punish the bombers. (Reuters)



American mourners comfort each other at yesterday's memorial service in Dhahran

# Star Trek heiress fails to cling on to her fortune

FROM TOM RHODES IN NEW YORK

BOLDLY going where no-one had gone before proved a costly process for Dawn Roddenberry, an heiress to the Star Trek fortune who yesterday found herself disinherited of hundreds of millions of pounds.

The daughter of Gene Roddenberry, creator of the Starship Enterprise, was deemed by a Los Angeles court to have contested her father's will and so forfeited any right to the future profits of the hugely successful television series, feature films and "Trekkie" merchandise.

Star Trek, the galactic adventures of Captain Kirk and his extraordinary crew, was created in the 1960s. It produced a succession of films and a devoted following among American and British viewers who still attend "Trekkie" conventions in the United States.

In recent years, the series has enjoyed something of a renaissance for a younger generation with Patrick Stewart, the British actor, taking the helm of the Enterprise. Licensing has become a goldmine for the Roddenberry family and, until yesterday, was estimated to be producing hundreds of millions of dollars for each of his heirs.

Andrew Garb, a lawyer for the family who announced the court's decision, described it as "one of the largest disinheritances of any heir in American history".

It seems that Mr Roddenberry had anticipated that there might be sibling rivalry over his estate and left specific instructions before his death in 1991 in an attempt to forestall it. His will stipulated

that any heir who disputed its validity should be disinherited immediately.

Under the terms of the will, each of his three children, Dawn and Darleen by his first marriage, and Eugene by his second, was to receive \$500,000 (£320,000) in cash. His second wife, Majel, was named as trustee. On her death Eugene was to be awarded 50 per cent of the trust, while the two daughters were each awarded a quarter.

However, within six weeks of her father's death, Dawn had filed a suit suggesting that he was not competent and had been unduly influenced by her stepmother. The dispute lasted for two years before Ms Roddenberry withdrew her claim in 1993.

The will then went into probate and Majel Roddenberry filed a petition for a court order to determine who was entitled to benefit from the estate. She alleged that under the no-contest clause, Dawn should be cut off without a cent, a claim which the Los Angeles court upheld and one which Mr Spock would presumably have found entirely logical.



Roddenberry: tried to avert sibling rivalry

# Peace force ready to move into Burundi

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

UGANDA and Tanzania are poised to send troops to prevent continued ethnic violence in Burundi, and will meet the defence ministers of other countries in the region on Monday to discuss details of the mission.

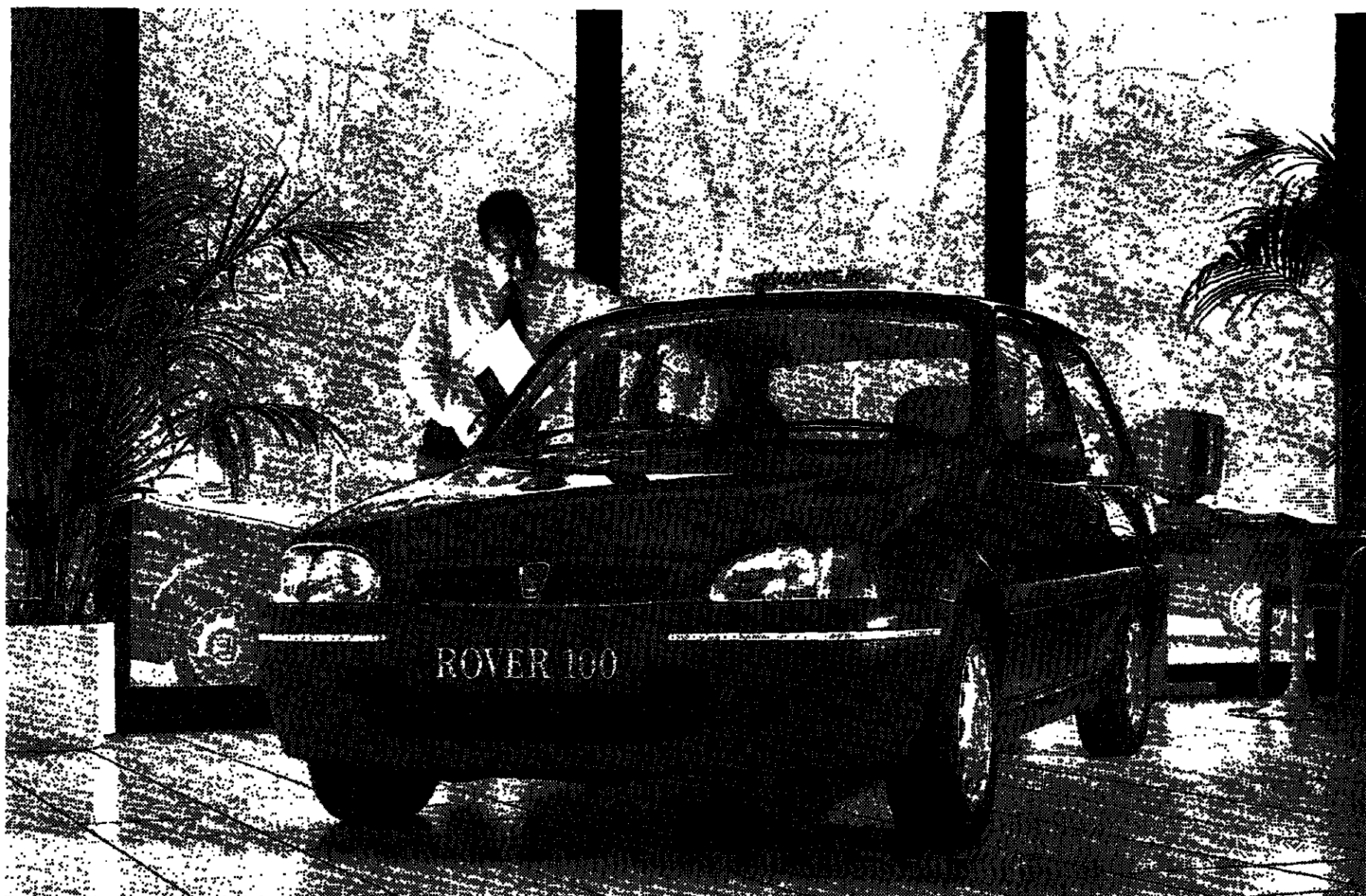
The plan, which has the backing of Western powers and the United Nations, is certain to be resisted by Hutu and Tutsi extremists.

The force of Tanzanian and Ugandan troops, supported by Kenyan police, could be deployed rapidly to stop ethnic bloodshed in Burundi developing into genocide or mass

slaughter, diplomatic sources in Nairobi said yesterday.

The move came after a summit of regional leaders, who this week expressed determination to ensure that the genocide which rocked Rwanda in 1994, when a million Tutsis were slaughtered, would not happen again. No timescale has been set for the deployment of the African peace-enforcing contingent.

Diplomats said it could be swiftly ordered to Burundi if Tutsi and Hutu tribesmen failed to end a cycle of slaughter in which an average of 100 people are dying daily.



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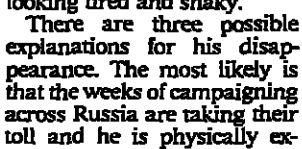
# Yeltsin 'disappearance' rekindles health fears

**FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS**

**Paul Heiney.**  
Weekend, page 3



**Gold: went to Gaza residence of Arafat**



**Kiev:** In a defeat for communism and victory for democ-

President Kuchma had forced parliament to deliberate overnight. The country had been using a heavily amended 1978 constitution, based on Soviet legislation.

that his state of health is far from the best and cannot be good considering he spent five months last year in a hospital bed," said the ruddy-faced Communist leader, referring to the two heart attacks last

## the constitution

**Ukraine undermined its refusal to be reintegrated into the old order. The Communists had fought the constitution because it abolished the traditional hierarchy of soviets, or local councils.**

This week he was seen playing volleyball, dancing a waltz and celebrating his birthday at a disco in Moscow, where he danced and sang for the cameras. Earlier, in a television advertisement, he scrapped his normally dull speech-making and replaced it with a personal account of life in rural Russia. He even introduced viewers to his mother and grandson.

The reversal of fortunes appears to be reflected in the latest opinion polls yesterday, which showed Mr Zyuganov catching up. According to the Public Opinion Fund, Mr Yeltsin had 50 per cent support, and Mr Zyuganov 46 per cent. The All-Russian Studies for Public Opinion Centre gave President Yeltsin 54 per cent, and Mr Zyuganov 30 per cent. However, it warned that if voter turnout was under 60 per cent, the two would be neck and neck.



## A black and white portrait of a man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a suit and tie. He is looking slightly to the left. The image is high-contrast and appears to be a photocopy or a stylized print.

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN JERUSALEM

IN A display of political pragmatism, Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, announced to his Cabinet yesterday that he had sanctioned the first contact between his right-wing Likud Government and Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, whom many Likud members refer to as a "terrorist".

Political sources said Mr Netanyahu angrily dismissed Cabinet objections to establishing contact with Mr Arafat. These were raised by Benny Begin, the Science Minister and son of Menachem Begin, the founder of Likud. The sources said the Prime Minister made clear that the

**dialogue with Palestinians  
would continue**

The contacts initially took place in cloak-and-dagger fashion on Thursday when Dore Gold, a top foreign policy adviser to Mr Netanyahu, and another emissary crossed into the Gaza autonomous area. They were escorted to Mr Arafat's home near the seafont by Colonel Muhammad Dahlan, the Palestinian leader's security chief.

First news of the meeting was published by the *Yedioth Ahronot* newspaper. It said Mr Netanyahu sanctioned the direct contact after Shin Bet, the Israeli security service, reported that there had been a weakening of co-operation between the Israelis and Palestinians since his rise to power.

During the meeting, Mr Gold assured Mr Arafat—who had complained this week to Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, that he was being snubbed by Likud—that Mr Netanyahu planned to continue the dialogue. Mr Gold also gave him a list of alleged Palestinian violations of the peace accord. Mr Arafat countered with a demand that Israel live up to its deal to pull troops out of the West Bank city of Hebron. He also said he was doing his best to root out terrorism.

The direct contact with Mr Arafat was seen as the most significant political step taken by Mr Netanyahu since he was sworn in this month. It confirmed predictions that he was prepared to take hard

decisions in the face of nationalist opposition within his Cabinet and in the Knesset

David Makovsky, author of an inside account of Israel's peace with the Palestinians, predicted that within "weeks or months" Mr Netanyahu would overcome his reluctance and meet Mr Arafat. "Thursday's meeting demonstrated that Mr Netanyahu realises that Mr Arafat is the partner," he said.

The first public denunciation of the meeting came from Rehavam Zeevi, leader of the

kenavam Zeevi, leader of the extreme right-wing Molodet party, which supports the Likud coalition from the backbenches. "Why did we bother to change Government in Israel?" he demanded angrily. "The Government of Israel is sending messengers to meet with the head of a terrorist organisation."

concided with an opinion poll showing that 59 per cent of Israelis favour a Netanyahu-

Israelis favour a Netanyahu-Arafat meeting; only 30 per cent are opposed. It also showed 54 per cent in favour of proceeding with the Israeli troop pullout from Hebron.

Sources close to Mr Arafat said Thursday's meeting was a prelude to a higher-level dialogue expected soon between him and David Levy, the Israeli Foreign Minister.

In line with the Society's policy of keeping customers informed of its accounts and interest rates, these are set out below effective at 29 June 1996. Please note, however, that the Society will be transferring many of its accounts no longer available (closed by post) into its current range, with effect from 15 July 1996. All customers affected by this change have been notified by post. Details of the account changes will be announced in this publication on Thursday 11 July 1996.

Account	Balance	Annual Interest		Monthly Interest	
		Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.	Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.
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	£1,000+	1.50	1.20	-	-
Monthly Saver	£10+	6.75	5.40	-	-
(Premium Rate) @					
First Choice <sup>3</sup>	£50+	1.25	1.00	-	-
(Including Bonus)	£300+	2.50	2.00	-	-
	£3,000+	3.00	2.40	-	-
	£10,000+	3.35	2.84	-	-
	£25,000+	3.95	3.16	-	-
Special Asset	£2,500+	3.10	2.48	3.00	2.40
	£5,000+	3.45	2.76	3.35	2.68
	£10,000+	4.40	3.52	4.25	3.40
	£20,000+	4.70	3.76	4.50	3.60
	£40,000+	5.00	4.00	4.80	3.84
	£80,000+	5.30	4.24	5.10	4.08
Bonus 120 Account	£10,000+	5.60	4.48	5.40	4.32
(Including Bonus)	£20,000+	6.00	4.80	5.75	4.60
	£30,000+	6.15	4.92	5.90	4.72
	£100,000+	6.50	5.20	6.25	5.00
Premier Deposit*	£1+	0.25	0.20	-	-
	£100+	0.75	0.60	-	-
	£10,000+	3.20	2.56	-	-
	£25,000+	3.95	3.16	-	-
<b>TESSAs</b>					
Classic II*		5.75	-	-	-
High-Return II*		6.45	-	-	-
Feeder Account II		6.45	5.16	-	-
Preference Follow-up	£3,001+	6.25	-	-	-
TESSA #*	£9,000+	6.75	-	-	-
Privilege follow-up TESSA #+.	£500+	6.00	-	-	-
	£3,000+	6.50	-	-	-
	£5,000+	6.75	-	-	-
	£9,000+	7.00	-	-	-
Special Interest Bond	£500+	5.45	4.36	-	-

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN  
IN MADRID

A TEAM of Spanish scientists will resume their dig tomorrow, after a year's break to study intriguing finds, at one of the world's most tantalising archaeological sites. The dig at Atapuerca, near the stately cathedral city of Burgos in northern Spain, has revolutionised understanding of the earliest people in Europe.

Answers to questions such as when man first arrived on the Continent, what he was like and the way he lived have been provided by Atapuera. But so far only a small fraction of the site has been examined.

Fifty archaeologists and palaeontologists are hoping to add to the "Atapuerca revolution" by establishing the existence of an as yet unrecorded species of hominid, likely to be called "*Homo antecessariensis*"

It was the fossilised remains of small rodents from the Pleistocene period which triggered off the initial excitement at Atapuerca two years ago when the team, led by Professor Eudald Carbonell, of Tarragona University, first uncovered the remains of a species of rat, *Mimomys savini*, in the same area where it had encountered fragments of a human jawbone and cranium.

The rat was known to have become extinct well over 800,000 years ago, which suggested that the human fragments could date back to the same age.

If so, the scientists had "discovered" Europe's oldest human — older than Boxgrove Man and Heidelberg Man, both dating back 400,000 years. The Atapuerca team has also argued that the community of hominids they have unearthed were carnivores. Human bones have been found strewn together with the bones of other animals. The cut marks on all are identical, indicating that people were killed and defleshed for food in the same way as animals were.

ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS

Account	Balance	Annual Interest		Monthly Interest	
		Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.	Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.
Ordinary (First Choice)	£1+	0.25	0.20	-	-
One Month Notice	£1+	2.00	1.60	-	-
	£2,500+	2.55	2.04	1.95	1.56
	£25,000+	3.50	2.80	2.43	1.96
	£50,000+	4.00	3.20	3.35	2.68
Bonus (Inc. full bonus)	£1,000+	2.65	2.12	3.85	3.08
	£10,000+	3.70	2.95	-	-
Option 6	£2,500+	3.40	2.72	-	-
Maturity Bond	£5,000+	5.25	4.20	3.25	2.60
	£25,000+	5.75	4.60	5.05	4.04
Privilege Bond	£5,000+	5.25	4.20	5.55	4.44
	£25,000+	5.75	4.60	5.55	4.44
	£50,000+	5.85	4.68	5.65	4.44
Annual	£100,000+	5.95	4.76	5.75	4.52
	£10,000+	4.45	3.56	4.25	4.60
	£30,000+	4.75	3.80	4.55	3.40
Matured TESSAs and Feeder Accounts		3.75	3.00	-	-
TESSA Feeder Account 1		6.25	5.00	-	-
TESSAs	Gross % p.a.				
Optimum	3.25	Bonus % p.a.	Tax-Exempt % p.a.		
Classic 1	5.25	1.00	6.25		
High-Return 1	6.25	1.00	6.25		
		1.00	7.25		

Interest rates are variable and are correct at time of going to press. Net equivalent assumes the lower rate of income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or, subject to the required certification, gross. Net rates available net of the lower rate of income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or, subject to the required certification, gross. Net rates are rounded and are for illustrative purposes only. All investments are applied where 12 consecutive months are made in 12 months (three income tax years). For details of other accounts please ask at your local branch. In addition to accounts available through the Society's branches, the Society also offers partial accounts through its Direct Savings Unit. Further details can be obtained by telephoning 0545 247 247.

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Birmingham City	Posthouse £68
Glasgow Airport	Posthouse £69
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Calchester	Posthouse £70
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Swindon	Posthouse £77
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Brighthelm	Posthouse £78
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Swansea	The Gladstone £79
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Southampton 1	The Polygon £80
Hereford	The Green Dragon £81

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PER PERSON PER NIGHT

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New York	£211	The Marine	£111
Farnham	£211	Rye	£111
Havant	£211	Chichester	£112
Launceston	£211	Ross-on-Wye	£112
Bamburgh	£211	Easton	£113
Millom/Kegons	£211	Stow-on-the-Wold	£115
Cambridge	£211	Centenary	£117
Oundle	£211	The Chaucer Hotel	£117
Lancaster	£211	The Speck House	£118
York 1	£211	The Eastgate Hotel	£118
Stratford-Upon-Avon	£211	The Castle Hotel	£118
Stroud	£211	The Star Inn	£124
Beaulieu	£211	The Bayside	£124
Southwell	£211	The Mermaid	£126
Ashton	£211	The Swan	£128
Clipperton	£211	The Bear Hotel	£128
Hartington	£211	Forest Of Dean	£130
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Thetford	£211	Winchelsea	£130
Winchester	£211	Aldfrith	£130
Bladnoch	£211	Ascot	£130
Cambsley	£211	Padstow	£130
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Rosney	£211	Woodstock	£130
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Orkney	£211	Stratford-Upon-Avon	£130
Dunfermline	£211	Stratford-Upon-Avon	£130
Mattlock Bath	£211	Oxford	£130
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Ian Hay Davison on meeting the Lottery challenge

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Getting a taste for the world's finest cuppas



SPORT 44-52

Indurain riding high in search of Tour record

THE HIDDEN ASSETS AT THAMES WATER  
Page 29

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JUNE 29 1996



Dieter Bock, centre, chief executive of Lonrho, flanked yesterday by Nick Morrell, his deputy, and Robin Whitten, the group's finance director

## Bock seeking three-way split of Lonrho empire

By Sarah Cunningham

LONRHO is to split into three by spinning off its hotel and then its trading divisions, the company revealed yesterday.

It wants to float 100 per cent of its interest in the hotels and trading businesses and believes it should raise enough money to cover the group's £579 million debts.

The move, to be completed by the end of this year, will leave Lonrho Plc with just its mining interests. The conglomerate has abandoned an earlier plan to demerge its mining assets because it would mean a much higher tax bill, it said.

The flotation of the hotels arm will be aided by Lonrho's move to buy back from the

Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company a one third stake in Metropole Hotels for \$389 million (£251 million). The Metropole stake was sold, controversially, to the Libyans for £177.5 million in 1992. Lonrho said it had been advised that the removal of the Libyan interest in the hotel business would greatly add to its value.

Dieter Bock, Lonrho's chief executive, said he expected to head the trading business and that he would "probably not" be chief executive of the mining company. His deputy, Nick Morrell, and Robin Whitten, Lonrho's finance director, are likely to move with him. The trading business will include Lonrho's African

operations and possibly its African hotels.

Mr Bock also suggested that the Lonrho brand, which is well known in Africa, may be retained for the trading company. It is unclear whether the mining business will keep the Lonrho name.

South Africa's Anglo American mining group recently negotiated an option to buy Mr Bock's 18.5 per cent holding in Lonrho at 22p a share. It already owns 10 per cent of the company and if Lonrho's non-mining interests are spun off, will have a significant hold on the Lonrho mining operations. These include coal and platinum activities in South Africa and a 37

per cent stake in Ghana's Ashanti Goldfields.

Mr Bock said that if Anglo American takes up the option on his shares he would reinvest in the trading company. This would give him a stake of 20 to 25 per cent.

The two new companies will be listed in London, possibly with some local African listings, Mr Bock said. "We are close to being able to give all the details to shareholders."

Mr Bock was speaking as Lonrho announced a first half pre-tax profit up 12 per cent to £58 million, excluding exceptional items. The dividend for the six months ending March 31 is unchanged, at 2.2p per share. Mining profits slipped £1 million, to £41 million, while

the hotel results increased by 17 per cent, to £27 million. The combined profits of the African and trading operations were £30 million, from £24 million the previous year.

If Lonrho goes ahead with the three-way split, it will complete the transformation of the company that Tiny Rowland built up during 30 years of aggressive acquisitions. Mr Bock, who took over from Mr Rowland last year after a boardroom coup, said that his predecessor was "a great dealmaker", but, he added, "companies were bought and not managed. It was the behaviour of a very rich private investor."

Tempos, page 30

## Personal incomes at 7-year peak

By Alasdair Murray

THERE was more good economic news for the Government yesterday as new figures showed that personal disposable incomes are at a seven-year high while the current account deficit for 1995 was less than half that indicated by previously published data.

Disposable incomes rose 4 per cent year-on-year, the highest level since 1989. About a quarter of this rise was due to the £1.25 billion National Grid rebate, but economists pointed out that the figures do not include the impact of the April tax cuts.

The current account trade deficit, meanwhile, was revised from £6.7 billion to £2.9 billion, equivalent to just 0.5 per cent of GDP last year. The sharp fall was largely due to an upward revision in the estimate of investment income to a surplus of £9.6 billion, the highest on record.

Ian Shepherdson, UK economist at HSBC, said: "There is no guarantee that these new figures will prove any more reliable than the previous ones, but as it stands they should allay one of the key fears about the economy this year."

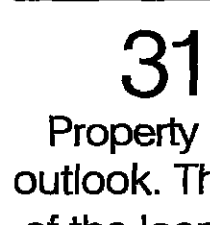
The Office for National Statistics said that it was launching an inquiry into the scale of revisions to last year's data, to be conducted jointly with the Bank of England which supplies much of the information.

The current account deficit in the first quarter of this year fell slightly to £1.1 billion from £1.2 billion, below City expectations. But there was less positive news from the first-quarter GDP figures which were revised downwards from 2 per cent to 1.9 per cent, well below the Chancellor's target of 3 per cent. The figures also reveal that investment fell by 2.1 per cent and overall capital expenditure was up just 1.5 per cent.

## WEEKEND MONEY



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## PRIVATISATIONS



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## SAVINGS



38 The saver's slice grows thinner as rates fall

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	5711.8	(+32.2)
Yield	4.09%	
FT-SE All Share	1856.33	(+12.42)
Nikkei	22530.75	(+29.14)
New York		
Dow Jones	5890.46	(+12.93)
S&P Composite	671.97	(+3.42)

### US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	8 1/2%	(8 1/2%)
Yield	6.92%	(6.99%)

### LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt future (Sep)	106 1/2	(105 1/2)

### STERLING

New York		
\$	1.5544	(1.5492)
London		
\$	1.5538	(1.5480)
DM	2.2652	(2.2525)
FF	1.7391	(1.7301)
Sfr	1.9448	(1.9338)
Yen	170.42	(168.96)
£ Index	86.3	(85.9)

### \$\$\$ DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.5208	(1.5181)
FF	5.1436	(5.1335)
Sfr	1.2503	(1.2470)
Yen	109.45	(108.14)
£ Index	87.2	(87.1)

Tokyo close Yen 109.91

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$18.45	(\$18.30)
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### GOLD

London close	\$382.25	(\$382.95)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## Build up

Cable and Wireless said that it would rely on Richard Brown, its US chief executive, to build up its low-profile American business. Page 28, Tempos 30

## Wickes suspends two directors

By Martin Waller

TWO directors of Wickes, the DIY chain that has revealed that its 1995 profits were overstated, have been suspended from their jobs pending an investigation by Price Waterhouse, the accountants, into the company's financial affairs.

The two — Les Rosenthal, group trading director, and Chris Miles, UK commercial director — are not main board members. "They will fully co-operate with Price Waterhouse, but will have no further dealings with suppliers, customers or staff throughout the investigation," said a spokesman.

Henry Sweetbaum, the company's chairman and chief executive, resigned on Wednesday from his post, which paid him a total of £1.2 million last year in salary and bonuses.

after a bitter boardroom meeting. The previous day the company had asked for trading in its shares to be suspended on the stock market because of accounting problems concerning "the timing of recognition of profit from supplier contributions."

Price Waterhouse started its investigation on Thursday, but indicated last night that the full damage to Wickes's profits might now not be known for two weeks. There had been hopes that the assessment of a firm figure, and the return of the shares from suspension, might have been possible as early as next week. A fuller inquiry by the accountants into how the illusory profits were generated is expected to take some weeks.

## Sumitomo's role under scrutiny

By Robert Miller

THE international inquiry into the \$1.8 billion copper crash is investigating claims that Sumitomo may have actively supported many of the deals done by Yasuo Hamanaka, the trader blamed for the vast losses.

Reports that Sumitomo worked with Chinese Government agencies over nearly a decade to control copper prices have added a new dimension to an already complex investigation by authorities in Japan, Britain and America.

The investigators are attempting to piece together the history of how Mr Hamanaka continued to be allowed to trade on the US and London copper markets, as well as other deals done "off exchange" through offshore centres such as Guernsey, even though the

SIB interviewed the Japanese copper trader in 1991 over a fictitious invoice for a trade of \$250 million and, told Sumitomo of its concerns.

Sumitomo has consistently denied that it knew anything of Mr Hamanaka's activities to control the world's copper markets. Investigators are also trying to establish whether there were any links between copper deals done by Mr Hamanaka and Juan Pablo Davila, chief trader for Codelco, the Chilean Government's copper trading arm and the world's largest copper producer, which lost \$200 million from fraudulent trading activities. Señor Davila, who denies any wrongdoing, is being held in a Santiago prison.

## Germany takes shine off gold plan

FROM JANET BUSH IN LYONS

THE G7 summit of the world's wealthiest nations failed to reach agreement yesterday on a plan to sell gold held by the International Monetary Fund, to relieve the debt burden of many poor countries.

But Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, a vociferous supporter of the plan that was effectively vetoed by Germany, is certain it will eventually go ahead. "It seems to me to be as plain as a pikestaff that it is going to be necessary," he said.

The plan, the subject of intense summit negotiations, calls on the IMF to sell a little less than 5 per cent of its 103 million ounces of gold, worth about \$2 billion out of a total of \$41 billion. The proceeds would be reinvested in other assets, such as stocks and bonds, which would then finance a higher income that would then finance new concessional lending to about 20 of

the poorest nations, mostly in Africa. The gold mountain is real. Much of the bullion is held by America in vaults at Fort Knox, on behalf of other IMF members. More gold is stored at central banks around the world, including the Bank of England. As one banker described it: "There are piles of gold bars with Post-It notes on top saying 'This belongs to the IMF — don't touch'."

Gold reserves were first accumulated in 1945 when the IMF was set up to police the post-war world financial system. Each IMF member contributed a proportion of the gold, regarded as the safest and most stable investment at the time. Germany joined in 1952.

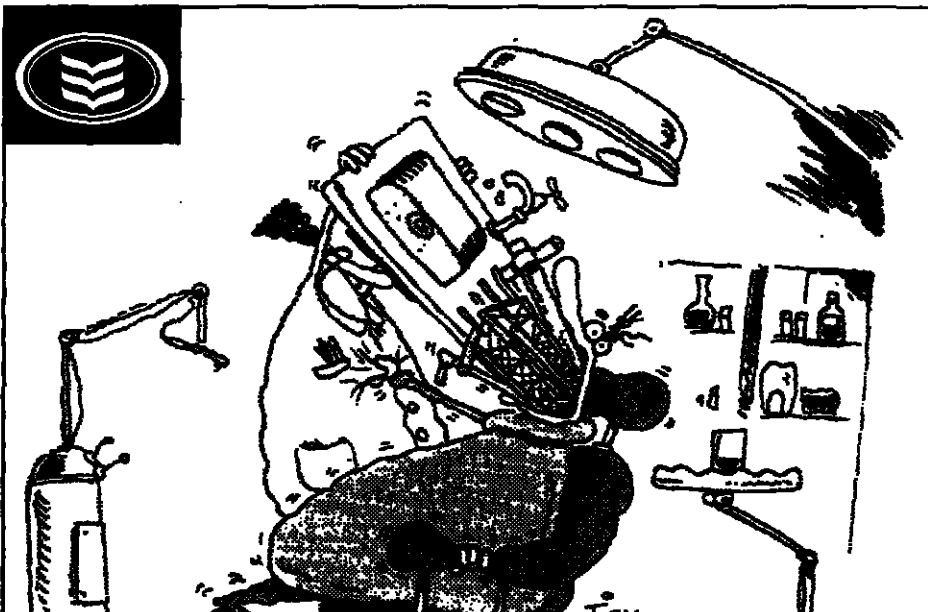
The Bundesbank opposes gold sales because it believes that they may be inflationary. Helmut Kohl, the German

Chancellor, is also against the sales because the opposition SPD party has been campaigning for the Bundesbank to sell some of its own reserves to finance social programmes in the country.

Germany has also argued that the sales would disrupt the world gold market, an argument rejected by its G-7 partners. Some increasingly frustrated G-7 officials say that Germany seems to come up with a different excuse every day.

The next move is uncertain. It is arithmetically possible that Germany could be outvoted when the IMF holds its autumn meeting in Washington. But the G-7 and the IMF would clearly prefer to bring Germany into the fold using the force of argument.

Buoyant Clarke, page 1



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## A WORKING WEEK FOR: GILES HILTON

## Taste for nosing out the world's fine cuppas

Sarah Bagnall talks to the product director of Whittard, the tea and coffee specialist, who relishes the role of beverage detective

**Monday**  
**Tuesday**  
**Wednesday**  
**Thursday**  
**Friday**

CAN you sniff a handful of tea and instantly tell what time of day the leaves were picked? Have you spent 11 years hunting down an elusive coffee bean? Giles Hilton can and has.

Hilton lives, loves and breathes tea and coffee. As product director of Whittard of Chelsea, he is the man responsible for tasting, selecting and often inventing the group's myriad selection of teas and coffees.

It is a task that has earned him the nickname Whittard's Nose and takes him to far-flung and exotic locations such as South America, Africa, China and India.

Hilton's trips are fact-finding missions, on which he unearths what it is that gives a particular Darjeeling tea extra zing, or why a reliable Kenyan coffee plantation has suddenly produced a dull, lifeless bean. He is a beverage detective, constantly searching out the pieces of the jigsaw that blend together to produce a tea or a coffee of outstanding character.

"In Darjeeling, there are a couple of people who know exactly what I want and will actually wait until it's a misty morning before they go picking," he says. "This is because I have discovered that mist, after a warm day, will produce an incredible tasting leaf."

This peculiar fact was acquired on one of Hilton's trips. "I visit the estates and talk to the managers, who get so excited when someone is actually interested in their product. Normally they only see brokers and trippers; they don't see an end-user. I turn up saying: 'What's given it this crispness? What is it I can taste in this?' And they say: 'Oh, we were out early in the morning when it was misty,'" he explains.

Hilton found his way into tasting by accident. The son of a Kent farmer, Hilton became a bookkeeper and among his clients was Dick Whittard, the son of Whittard's founder. It was 1977 and Hilton, then 26, would turn up at the company's single shop, which was in Fulham Road, London, to do the books and would be invited to join Mr Whittard in his tastings.

"On Thursdays and Fridays he would have a solid batch of samples to taste for the Monday and Tuesday London auctions. So we would have row upon row of teapots lined up and both of us with our spoons would work our way along tasting them all and decide what teas to buy at auction," he says.

Tasting is an art. Each tasting cup has an exact measure of tea leaves and an exact volume of water. The liquor is then sipped like wine and spat out to avoid taking in excessive quantities of tannin. Hilton says that it took him seven years

to develop the necessary memory and vocabulary to comprehend and vocalise what his palate was sampling. "After three years I was getting to grips with it all and I knew some of the basics," he says. "But I had — and still have — a lot to learn."

Whittard, set up in 1886, has grown over the past decade into a chain of 79 shops selling assorted coffees and 42 brands of tea, with names that range from the traditional to the bizarre, such as Summer Pudding.

Last year the company sold 292 tonnes of tea and 219 tonnes of coffee. It lifted pre-tax profits by 81 per cent, to £13 million, on sales ahead by 158 per cent, at £15.6 million. And on Thursday the shares started trading on the Alternative Investment Market. They opened at 148p and rose 10p, to 158p, thereby valuing the company at £25 million.

Tasting takes up much of Hilton's time. Samples of various teas and coffees are constantly being sent in by brokers and he tastes about 20 to 30 teas a day on average.

"If I pick up a cracker I then fax an order straight over saying 'Can I buy this?' I'm having to compete with the Germans and the Japanese particularly. They are buying all the good teas because they have taste. We English just want small leaf, brown tea-bag tea unfortunately."

In fact, he adds, about 80 per cent of tea in the UK is tea-bag tea. Hilton has boundless nervous energy and is reminiscent of a wind-up toy that hurries around at a rate of knots. But, unlike a spent spring, Hilton's exuberance doesn't wane and is kept fuelled by a mere five to six hours sleep a night.

"I don't need sleep. That's my great asset. I'm very lucky indeed, and also I don't get jet lag at all because I don't have time to get it," he says, breaking into laughter. "When I'm at a tea estate I leave my curtains wide open and get up at 4am and go walking on my own for three or four hours before everyone else in the house moves. Why sleep? Why miss it? The sun's come up over the hills, the bushes are beautifully green. It's heaven. Utter peace and quiet. A bit of smoke rising from various fires as the locals cook their food."

Hilton does not confine his early rising to when he is overseas. A couple of days a week he leaves home at 5am to visit stores around the country. This enables him to miss the rush-hour, as well as allowing him time for a breakfast before arriving at the store as its doors open.

On the other days of the working week, Hilton makes the 15-minute trip to his office in Stockwell by cycle across Clapham Common, from his home in Battersea, south London, where he shares with his wife, Verity. He arrives in time to



Giles Hilton took part in tastings while doing Whittard's books. "After three years I knew some of the basics. But I had, and still have, a lot to learn."

start work at about 7.30am. His working day is long, averaging about 11 hours, and is often rounded off by entertaining friends at home.

Surprisingly, providing coffee and tea for these affairs is often a problem. "You know the saying that the cobbler's children are always the worst-shod. Well I don't know what the equivalent is, but we never have any tea or coffee at home. I often get a phone call from Verity saying we have people coming round for supper and we don't have any tea or coffee so I have to pinch a couple of ounces out of the kitchen at work. I'm hopeless," he says.

Office days kick off with administrative tasks, such as sorting through faxes, checking details of purchasing contracts and preparing budgets. "Unfortunately, the purely financial aspect creeps in. I can't just buy randomly all the beautiful tea that I want. I'm afraid the odd wicked one sneaks in and I mutter something about staff tea."

Staff tea is Hilton's occasional private hoard, used to secrete the odd box of special teas and coffees, which later resurface, however, on Whittard's mail-order list for the company's more discerning customers to try. One tea that recently joined the ranks of staff tea was Monkey Picked tea from China. Historically, this rare tea was picked by monkeys from wild tea bushes that had seeded themselves in inaccessible ledges and cliff faces.

Monkey Picked tea doesn't enjoy that method of harvesting any longer, but it is

so hard to get hold of that Hilton has managed to buy only 5lb of it. The limited supplies make it one of the world's most expensive teas, retailing at about £83 a pound. But, as Hilton swiftly points out, "a pound makes 1,000 cups, so that's 83p a cup".

Hilton has warmed to his theme and is now waxing lyrical about teas he has known and loved. I'm treated to a rare and much-coveted tea — First Flush Darjeeling — that acquired its name because it is made from shoots that are picked when they first appear. Then Hilton produces a bag of Jasmine Pearl tea. These pearl-shaped balls are made from hand-rolling the tips of tea leaves, which are then flavoured for five nights with jasmine flowers.

Some tasters take their profession very seriously, to the extent that they don't eat certain foods for fear of ruining their palates. "Some people won't even clean their teeth in the morning just in case the peppermint taste stays," he says, adding: "I live on chillies. Purists say I'm mad and want to jump on me and shoot me for that."

Purists might also get upset over some of the names that Hilton has given to the concoctions he has developed. The bizarrely named Summer Pudding tea is a mixture of summer fruits, including strawberries, blackberries and raspberries, which is being joined this September by Sticky Toffee Pudding tea (caramel flavoured) and Tiramisu flavoured coffee. Hilton decided to make a Sticky Toffee

Pudding tea after a trip to Scotland, and the Tiramisu coffee is the result of many an evening spent in a local Italian restaurant.

"What fun it all is," Hilton says. "I refuse to grow up. I'm accused by people of being like a little boy let loose because I'm permanently asking questions. I love learning. There is no such thing as being a know-it-all. We sell Celebes Kalosi, a coffee from Sulawesi (in Indonesia) that took me 11 years to find. It is the most wonderful coffee. And I only recently learnt the trick of hanging wet sackings round the ground floor of a factory to reduce the temperature inside by five degrees so that the tea leaves retain more moisture. These are the best bits. I just love it."

## HIDDEN ASSETS

## Resource on tap for a water company is a link with past

Joanna Pitman visits a 17th-century boardroom at a block of luxury flats

Next door to Sadler's Wells theatre and hidden inside what has just opened for viewing as a newly restored 1920s Grade II listed building converted into smart apartments, Thames Water retains a little known 17th-century gem. This relic from the past, known as the Oak Room, built in the 1620s and intricately decorated with oak carvings by Grinling Gibbons and extravagant baroque plasterwork, has remained intact and will still be used as a public space inside what has become a block of luxury modern flats.

The block known as New River Head at Rosebery Avenue is a six-storey building designed by Austen Hall in the style of a French chateau, with a marble-lined entrance hall and a barrel vaulted roof in the lobby, which was, in the time of Thames Water's occupancy, known as the Revenue Hall. But it is the Oak Room, which Thames Water has retained for its own use on a 999-year lease, that is the last remaining original relic and which represents the history of water resources management in London. That story began in the early 17th century, when residents of London realised that the water drawn from the River Thames and local springs was neither clean nor copious enough to supply the growing population.

A plan was devised by Hugh Myddelton, the engineer, to construct a channel to bring water from springs in Hertfordshire, 20 miles to the north. With the help of business partners and with 50 per cent of the costs provided by King James I, the channel was completed in 1613 and became

known as New River. The channel ended at the Round Pond in Clerkenwell, just outside the boundaries of the City of London and Myddelton constructed an underground cistern from which water was distributed. Myddelton was created a baronet in 1622 and the same

year he formed a chartered corporation to manage the New River and collect the revenues. Myddelton's company built the Water House above the cistern, which was designed for offices and for the accommodation of supervisors. By the end of the 17th century, the Water House

had been enlarged and the New River Company decided it needed a boardroom of appropriate dignity.

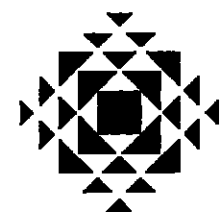
The partners commissioned Grinling Gibbons, Sir Christopher Wren's protégé. Gibbons produced some elaborate carved panels and the intricately detailed coat of arms of the king. Carved on the ceiling in plasterwork are the coats of arms of Sir Hugh Myddelton and of John Grene, clerk to the New River Company from 1667 and husband of one of Myddelton's granddaughters. The ceiling centrepiece, ornamented with exuberant baroque plasterwork, was designed by a court painter called Henry Cooke.

For the whole of the 18th century, the Water House was the official residence of three of the New River Company's engineers and during the late 19th century the firm held its annual dinner in the Oak Room. In 1902, responsibility for London's water was taken over by the newly formed Metropolitan Water Board. In 1904, the board bought the Oak Room from the New River Company for £2,000. When Austen Hall designed the new building in the 1920s, the Oak Room was dismantled and rebuilt. It was again dismantled during the Second World War, for fear of bomb damage, and was rebuilt in 1945.

In 1973, the Metropolitan Water Board became absorbed into Thames Water, one of ten regional authorities responsible for water services. The Oak Room again survived the changes and is today seen as a symbol of London's water history.



The magnificent Oak Room was built in the 1620s



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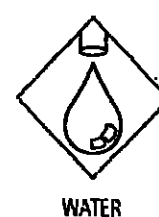
GAS



TELECOMS



RETAIL



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## PLASTIC ERA 36

Barclaycard celebrates its 30th birthday

# WEEKEND MONEY

## RETIRING EARLY 37

The penalties in the small print



Marianne Curphey finds good deals for borrowers in an improving but fragile market

## First-time buyers are viewing with caution

The combination of a host of special mortgage offers and long midsummer evenings are tempting first-time buyers to go house hunting, though lenders warn that only a slight increase in interest rates will send them scurrying for cover again. Many have waited several years for evidence that house prices are stabilising, having seen friends and relatives caught in the negative equity trap.

Now, with encouraging figures from lenders and indications that prices are starting to move upwards, they are choosing carefully, selecting smart homes in popular areas.

The first-time buyers of the 1990s can afford to pass over one-bedroom flats and studio apartments in favour of larger properties, and appear to have turned their backs on the 1980s "yuppie" trend for buying and doing-up badly decorated houses in down-at-heel areas in the hope that one day the street will become gentrified and prices will soar.

Even so, in some areas of the country there is still a significant gap between expressions of interest and actual sales. Some potential buyers have become disillusioned with the property available, after they discovered that people with good quality homes are waiting until house prices rise further before they put them on the market.

One 1980s phenomenon, gazumping, appears to have made a limited, and unwelcome, reappearance. But while some estate agents encourage buyers to bid against one another, sellers are making estate agents fight for custom by taking on more than one agent.

"I do not believe that this renewed interest is a temporary blip," says James Chapman, operations director with Royal Insurance Property Services. "In previous years, interest from buyers has peaked in early spring and tailed off after Easter. This year appears to be different, and there are no signs of a drop in the number of sales agreed and contracts exchanged."

Aside from the first-timers, two sets of buyers have returned to the market: investors, who are mopping up one-bedroom flats, terraced houses and less popular properties with a view to renting them out; and wealthy city dwellers who are once again looking for second homes in the country, and have at least £200,000 with which to indulge themselves.

Mr Chapman says that offices in the South West are reporting buoyant sales as people snap up holiday homes in Devon and Cornwall. "At this time of year we would expect sales to fall off a little as people start to go on holiday, but our South West office is busier than

they would love to lend and are desperate to sell new mortgages. No wonder that there are so many competitive deals for new entrants to the housing market, as well as some interesting offers for existing borrowers.

Philip Cartwright, of the mortgage brokers London & Country, says people should opt to borrow no more than 90 per cent of the value of the property if possible. "Lenders tend to regard you as a better risk if you can put down a deposit, so you get better interest rates and lower mortgage indemnity guarantee fees. Rates tend to be higher if you are borrowing more than 95 per cent of the property's

year. It also has a 4 per cent initial rate, which is fixed until October 1998.

The Stroud & Swindon has fixed its rate at 3.49 per cent for one year, and will advance a maximum of 95 per cent of the value of the property.

All of these mortgages require you to continue borrowing from them for a fixed number of years after the discount period has ended. If you sell up early you may have to make up the difference between the discount rate and the standard variable rate.

For people who do not want a fixed rate or are not first-time buyers, the best standard variable rates for mortgages of up to 95 per cent are available from the Nationwide and Principality building societies. Both charge 6.74 per cent for loans, although the Principality requires you to buy its own buildings and contents insurance.

If you can afford a larger deposit covering 20 per cent of the property's value, then Direct Line offers a rate of 6.05 per cent and Bradford & Bingley Direct quotes 5.99 per cent. If you want to borrow only 75 per cent of the property's value, the National Counties Building Society is offering a discount rate of 2.5 per cent for two years, plus an extra year at the standard variable rate.

Simon Tyler, of Chase de Vere Mortgages, has identified a mood of caution among first and second-time buyers in sharp contrast to the unbridled enthusiasm of the 1980s. "Ten years ago, people were borrowing four times their annual income. With house prices having fallen, and currently being relatively low in comparison with earnings, there is no need now for them to overstretch their resources," he said.

### BEST BUY FIRST-TIME BUYER MORTGAGES

Lender	Initial Advance	Fixed/Discounted until	Maximum
Principality	1.50	Discount of 5.24% until 1.7.97	95
Stroud & Swindon	3.49	Fixed for 1 year	95
01225 427764			
Principality	4.00	Discount of 2.74% until 1.7.98	95
0800 454478			
Cheltenham & Gloucester	4.90	Discount (or cashback) of 2% for 1 year	95
01604 418402			
Portman	5.50	Fixed until 1.9.98	95
0117 929 1584			
Lambert	7.55	Fixed until 1.9.2001	95
0171 737 2925			

Source: London & Country (0800 373300)

ever." Holiday homes were the 1980s status symbol: huge swaths of the Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire countryside were bought up at inflated prices by Londoners, while the prettiest parts of Yorkshire and Derbyshire went to well-heeled residents from neighbouring cities.

Mr Chapman also reports steady demand for all types of homes in the South East, South Coast and East Anglia. The Midlands, he says, "are seeing a slight increase", while the North of England, traditionally six months behind London, is almost unchanged. Yet, in spite of the increased activity, high street banks and building societies have plenty of spare cash which

value." He quotes a current deal from the Bristol & West Building Society, which offers a rate of 7.25 per cent for mortgages below 90 per cent and 7.6 per cent for those above.

Although good rates are available, confidence in the market is still fragile, he says. "At the moment, housebuyers are encouraged by very low monthly payments, but the first sign of rate rises will really scare people off." Some of the best deals on the market are fixed rates available from building societies still wedded to the concept of mutualism. Among them is the 1.50 per cent discount rate from the Principality Building Society, which reverts to the normal variable rate in October next

## New purchasers aim higher

Today's first-time buyers proceed with caution, selecting both property and loan with care and considerable study. In the Eighties, single people and young couples had to be content with studio or one-bedroom flats; they can now aspire to houses.

James and Louise Duncan, a pair of City accountants, illustrate the trend. James, 30, said "I came down from Scotland eight years ago and have been paying other people's mortgages ever since as a tenant. When you compare the cost of renting and buying, renting is by far the more expensive option. Interest rates are also about as low as they can go. But we do not intend to buy without due reflection."

"Because I come from Dumbarton, it's also difficult

to persuade me that London properties are extraordinarily cheap. I could buy a mansion back home for the price of a three-bedroom house here."

During their quest for a property in Wanstead, east London, they have discovered that some estate agents still conform to the egregious Eighties archetype, behaving as if there had never been a property slump. James said: "I was surprised by the hard sell we were subjected to by some firms. We were told that now was the time to buy, that prices could not go lower."

The Duncans now have a property in mind and are having it surveyed. Louise's father, a structural engineer, has already examined the four-bedroom house.

Wanting to know how much they will pay each month,



Homing in: James and Louise Duncan have a house in mind

James and Louise have chosen a Bristol & West loan, fixed at 6.95 per cent for four years. The society has replaced this offer with a higher rate. They have taken into account the effect of a change of

Government: "If Labour gets in, rates could rise. But they should be on a downward trend just as our fixed-rate period is coming to an end."

ANNE ASHWORTH

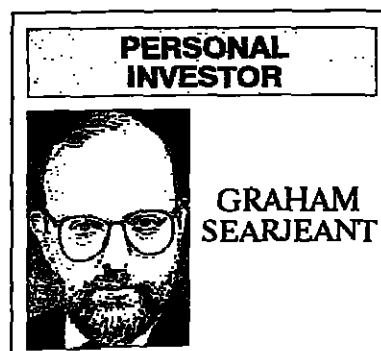
## The unclearest offer of all

Small investors who bought shares in Railtrack at a discount now sit on a 15 per cent paper profit on their first instalment. Institutions are up 10 per cent on what they have paid so far, a modest 5 per cent on the full price.

On the surface, that looks a good advertisement for the "bookbuilding" technique. Under conventional sales, vendors set a price underwriters are prepared to guarantee and then set out their stall. Under bookbuilding, the seller nominates a price range and bids from fund managers set the actual sale price. Small investors buy a pig in the poke, but are guaranteed a few pence off as compensation. This system achieved a reasonable advance over Railtrack, the first time it was used in a privatisation flotation.

Second time round, the technique has come a cropper. BZW, adviser for the sale of British Energy, has had so little success in estimating a realistic price that it has set a range that varies 50 per cent against 10 per cent in the Railtrack deal. Private investors, who have to launch whatever price is arrived at for the nuclear power generator, do not know if they are buying shares on a dividend yield of 0.1 per cent or 0.5 per cent. That result is an atomic pile in a poke.

Uncertainty is not surprising, you may think. When the power industry was sold in 1991, nuclear plants were supposed to be part of National Power, while the Chernobyl disaster fresh in the mind, however, the City demanded government guarantees or such a vast amount of cash that the plan was ditched. Unlucky, many of us thought it impractical to sell nuclear power to invest-



PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

tors. Building new nuclear plant is also uneconomic. That is why the late John Collier, Nuclear Electric's chairman, was so anxious to give his crack engineers and managers new challenges possible only in the private sector.

In the event, fear of nuclear risk is not the problem. International investors are now used to nuclear power. The decade since Chernobyl has been another one of safe and increasingly efficient nuclear operation in Britain. And British Energy is not the nuclear power industry. Old Magnox stations, which face huge decommissioning costs soon, were kept back. English and Scottish advanced gas-cooled reactors have been put together, along with the single, ill-conceived but spanking new Sizewell B pressurised water reactor.

The uncertainties are financial. British Energy's profits are more highly geared than others to the pool price of electricity, which is largely influenced by National Power, Powergen, and ul-

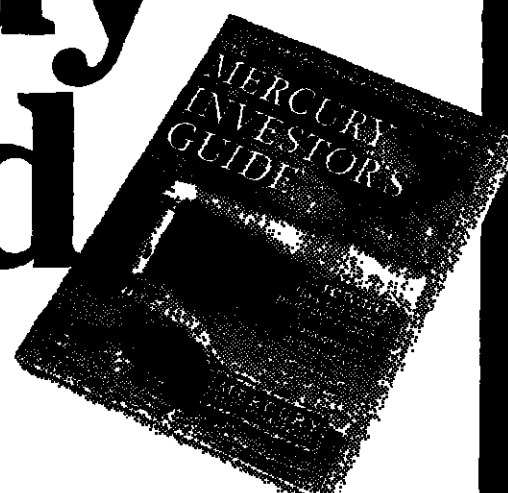
timately a fretful regulator. Nuclear's marginal costs are low, but fixed costs, including provisions for decommissioning, are so high that every penny counts. It is also vulnerable to plant being out of order, as last year, instead of churning out megawatts 24 hours a day.

The nightmare would be for rising inflation to boost index-linked fuel decommissioning contract costs while pool prices fall. As in all highly geared industries, things could as easily move in a profitable direction, for instance if fossil-fuel prices rise. Charges will fall if management can extend the lives of its AGRs. Indeed, it relies on doing so, and further cost savings, to justify its forecast dividend. The 13.7p net is unlikely to be covered by profits for some years, because £200 to £300 million is charged for future liabilities, though it should be paid comfortably from cashflow. The board says this cannot go on for ever.

Such niceties are, however, academic for small investors who have no idea what they will pay. For us, the offer is strictly downmarket and short-term. With 13.7p of dividend to be paid comfortably before the second instalment is due in September 1997, and a 5p discount, you should make a good return over 12 months on the £1 down payment unless bidders get the price too high. The reverse is likelier.

This offer is worth having. But to reduce the innovative, controversial, romantic story of nuclear power to a small-but-fact badly degrades the ideals of privatisation at what seems likely to be the end of the process.

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## Make sure you are not left feeling travel sick

Inadequate safeguards mean many holidaymakers are being sold insurance policies which do not give recommended levels of cover, says Sara McConnell



Watchdogs are tightening their grip on sales of travel insurance policies as the holiday season gets under way, amid growing concern that holidaymakers are taking out inadequate cover and landing themselves with expensive bills if things go wrong.

Consumer groups say existing safeguards on the £400 million-a-year market are not enough. They are warning people that they will have to check out policies themselves to make sure they are protected on holiday.

Some cheaper policies do not offer recommended levels of cover, particularly for medical costs and personal liability (see below) and will not cover more dangerous activities. At the same time, there is widespread evidence that many agents do not understand the terms of the policies they are selling and so cannot be sure the policy is suitable.

The Association of British Insurers (ABI), whose code of conduct covers travel insurance, has been carrying out a "mystery shopping" exercise to check the code is being complied with. This follows the introduction of a stricter code at the end of last year after widespread evidence that

travellers were being sold unsuitable policies.

The ABI said: "Policies like travel insurance are being sold by people who know nothing about insurance. We have to keep an eye on how the code is working". ABI researchers visited banks, building societies and independent intermediaries as well as travel agents. The results of the mystery shopping exercise are being collated now.

Their researchers are likely to have found a large number of agents are not complying with the code. A similar exercise by the Consumers' Association in March found that only two out of 25 agents were complying with ABI requirements to display a laminated card setting out background details of the different areas the policy covers.

Under the code's provisions, agents and others selling insurance are meant to explain the cover and any exclusions. If the agent cannot answer questions about the policy, he or she has to telephone the insurer underwriting the policy to get an answer.

But Sophie Gumpel, principal researcher at the Consumers' Association, argues: "In a lot of areas the seller doesn't know enough to point out the

levels of cover and exclusions. We advise people to check the cover and understand the policies themselves. They should say exactly what they intend doing on holiday to make sure they are covered and look at the levels of cover offered.

"If they can't get answers they should go elsewhere. The insurance companies have made an effort to get their wording better. Travel agents are not insurance experts and we are glad the ABI has recognised this. But we think things have a long way to go".

Even if it is being followed to the letter, the ABI code is just that — a code. It has no statutory force and the ABI has no disciplinary powers. Non-members of the ABI are bound by the code, but buying insurance from a member of the ABI does not confer any greater protection.

In the absence of greater protection, keep a sharp eye out for the following areas when buying a policy:

### Public liability insurance

This became a hot issue in March when *The Times* ran the story of Matthew France and Lisa Pilkington, who had an accident in their hired car while on holiday in the US, injuring a motorcyclist. They now face legal action from the motorcyclist, who is suing for damages and medical costs, and they could end up with a bill for \$1 million. They assumed they were covered by their travel policy, which had £2 million of public liability cover.

This does not cover you if you are using a car or other mechanically propelled vehicle. If you are in the US you should buy top-up or supplementary liability insurance to cover injury to someone else. This is most important, as US citizens will not hesitate to seek redress in court in a country which has the highest medical bills in the world.

In the UK and Europe you

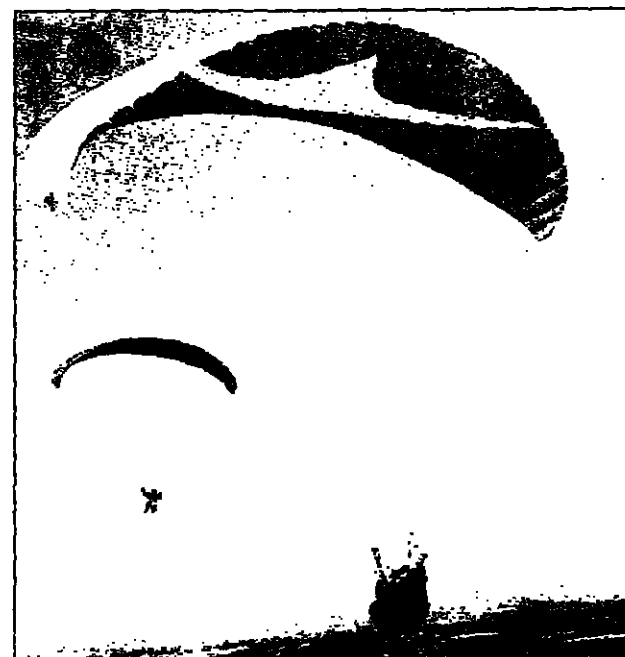
are automatically covered under motor insurance for personal injury claims from third parties. Most states in the US insist car hire companies provide a minimum level of third-party liability insurance for personal injury, but this can be as little as \$100,000 per person.

"You can buy top-up insurance here or in the US. Here, Inter Assurance, the travel intermediary, charges £55 for 15 days cover of \$1 million and £69 for 22 days. Club Direct charges £50 for \$1 million of cover for eight days.

### Medical insurance

This accounts for a large number of the complaints handled by the insurance ombudsman. Michael Lovegrove, of the insurance ombudsman's office, says policies will normally only pay for emergency medical expenses, which begs the question of what is an emergency.

Insurers are also not keen to meet extra costs, even when the policyholder has no say in the matter. In one case handled by the ombudsman, a British citizen needed emergency surgery while on holiday in Ireland. He would have qualified for treatment in a state hospital, but the doctor sent him to a private hospital. The insurer refused to pay on the ground that treatment did not have to be in a private



Most policies exclude dangerous sports such as paragliding

hospital. Medical insurance is particularly important in the US where bills can mount alarmingly. For example, a vicar's wife, a customer of Inter Assurance, had a heart attack while on holiday in the US and incurred £55,000 of medical bills. The insurance company, in this case, is paying. British citizens, as members of the European Union, can qualify for medical treatment in Europe on production of an E111 from the Department of Social Security,

but this will not cover the costs of an emergency flight home and you may find yourself paying extra costs.

### Dangerous sports

You should check your policy carefully if you think you might try an afternoon's waterskiing or scuba diving as a change from the beach. Insurers are now starting to offer cover for some activities without charging extra, but you will have to pay an extra premium to be covered for others. Some activities, like paragliding, are excluded from most policies.

TSB has extended its standard travel policy to cover a range of sports including abseiling, parasailing over water and snorkelling. But it excludes others such as mountaineering or potholing. You are more likely to be covered if you are trying out a sport spontaneously as part of a holiday. If you intend to go on a specialist activity holiday you should get specialist cover, from the tour operator or the sport's relevant association.

### RECOMMENDED COVER LEVELS

Medical expenses — up to £250,000 in Europe and £1 million in the rest of the world.  
Personal liability — £2 million for the US and £1 million for the rest of the world (but see above)  
Cancellation and curtailment — covers the extra costs of getting home if you have to cut short your holiday. Up to £3,000.  
Baggage — at least £1,500 with cover to replace essential items if luggage is lost en route. There may be a limit of between £150 and £300 on single items.  
Money — between £200 and £500 for all forms of money and half of this for cash. Cover varies.  
Source: Consumers' Association

## Mortgage maze answers for new house buyers

As new buyers come to the market they are normally given the option of a repayment mortgage or an endowment mortgage. We look at what each has to offer.

**Q How does a repayment mortgage work?**

**A** You pay off a combination of interest and capital on the loan. In the early years, your monthly payments tend mostly to pay off interest with a small amount of capital. This has led to the myth that all you pay is interest. It is true that when interest rates are high you do pay off a smaller proportion of capital.

**Q What about an endowment mortgage?**

**A** With an endowment mortgage you pay only interest on the loan, and you buy an investment plan from an insurance company which puts your money into a combination of shares, gilts, fixed-interest stocks and commercial property. The insurer aims to make your fund grow large enough over the term (usually 25 years) to pay off your mortgage in full. In addition, some schemes plan to give you back a lump sum at the end of the term over and above the mortgage repayment. Endowments are for a fixed term, and you are likely to be penalised for early surrender if you decide to stop paying into your policy or try to transfer it. This is true particularly in the first two years of an endowment's life, since set-up costs and commission charges absorb most of the premiums in the early years.

**Q Does my age make any difference?**

**A** Those who bought endowments in the 1970s and the beginning of the 1980s have, on the whole, done reasonably well. During that period the stock market rose steadily, with a big jump in the boom years of the 1980s. Some companies paid out large bonuses to policyholders to attract more business. Recently, life companies have started paying much more conservative bonuses on their endowment plans and the stock market has slowed down, which make the returns look much less attractive.

Philip Cartwright, of mortgage brokers London & County, says people whose 25-year endowment plans are due to mature within the next few years have a healthy sum coming to look forward to.

However, people who bought endowments at the end of the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s, in a period of low inflation and less spectacular stock market performance, have not seen such good growth.

**Q Why have endowments had so much bad publicity?**

**A** Some insurance sales people have been accused of selling endowments because they yield high commission to the seller. Some endowments have not performed as well as expected and a small proportion of homeowners have been warned that their endowment will not be big enough to cover the cost of the loan at the end of term. Most of those affected bought ten or 15-year plans at the end of the 1980s. People who bought endowments in the 1990s on a 25-year term still have time for performance to pick up again.

**Q What if I am worried about my endowment?**

**A** If you are concerned, write to the company asking for an update. They will be able to tell you whether they think the endowment is on target.

**Q Is there such a thing as a guaranteed endowment?**

**A** No, other than a very expensive "full endowment" which is not sold as part of a mortgage package. Endowment mortgages are of a type known as "low-cost" and they will be affected by the performance of a combination of investments, including shares. In practice, most 25-year investments have shown reasonable growth, but you should be aware that past performance does not guarantee future success.

**Q I bought an endowment the first time round. Can I now combine that with a repayment mortgage?**

**A** Yes, most lenders will allow you to do this. If, for example, you want a mortgage of £100,000 and have a deposit of £10,000 and an existing endowment to repay £50,000, you could arrange a repayment mortgage to cover the balance of £40,000. Alternatively, you could set up a repayment mortgage for the whole amount, and use the endowment as a savings scheme. If you do not already have an endowment, it is better to look at other, more tax-efficient savings products such as personal equity plans and Tessas.

**Q What happens if the stock market crashes just before my endowment matures?**

**A** If you have a unitised plan, some of the value of the endowment would be wiped off. If you have a with-profits fund, it will be affected less, because of the regular bonuses paid out which cannot be taken away.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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NATIONAL SAVINGS

UNIQUE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FROM HM TREASURY

Caroline Merrell on a problem many would envy. Handling a millionaire's retirement package

# Oh Mr Robinson, let us help you with your conundrum



Peter Robinson, former Woolwich Building Society chief executive, could take the attractive lump-sum alternative and pay off the mortgage on his luxury home at Brasted in Kent

A dilemma now faces Peter Robinson, the former chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society. It is a problem that millions would envy.

Following his sudden exit from the society, amid allegations of abuse of society perks and other irregularities, Mr Robinson has been offered an ample retirement package. Based on his final salary of £300,000-plus and his 33 years of service with the society, he can opt for either a pension of about £165,000 a year, or for a lump sum of £375,000 with a reduced pension of £133,000.

Late this week, Mr Robinson, 54, had yet to make up his mind which option to select: whether to take the tax-free cash and pay off the mortgage on his £450,000 mock Tudor home and invest the rest for gardeners' wages and other expenses, or to take the higher pension.

To help him make up his mind, *Weekend Money* asked some pensions experts for their

advice on the lump sum conundrum, a problem also faced by those who retire with more modest pensions.

They noted that to compensate for taking a smaller pension, he would have to invest the lump sum to achieve a gross return of 8.3 per cent. One remarked that, although Mr Robinson did not receive compensation for loss of office, the cost to the pension scheme of allowing him to retire early was in excess of £300,000, Mr Robinson's annual salary.

Alan Judes, of Bacon & Woodrow, the consulting actuaries, said: "The tax-free lump sum may be an anomaly in the tax system but it's an incredibly attractive option. Many use some of the money to pay off their mortgages. However, when you're making this decision, you have to take into account your potential longevity. For example, if you survive to age 90, then a higher pension is a better deal. If your parents are still alive and kicking, then the

indications are that you too should live till a ripe old age. Mr Robinson's pension will rise over the period of his retirement. The longer he lives, the more attractive the full pension becomes."

Ron Spill, Legal & General pensions director, said: "I would go for the cash, although there are some arguments in favour of taking the higher pension."

"You have to focus on two issues: your life expectancy and inflation. If you take the lump sum and do not live for very long, you have got out of the pension fund much more than you would have done if you had taken the full pension. On the other hand, if you opt for the higher pension, you have the benefit of cost of living increases, if inflation takes off."

"Anyone now retiring should also remember that the proportion of the pension which can be taken as a tax-free lump sum is gradually being reduced. Each year at the time of the Budget, there are rumours that the concession will be

removed and many believe that it will be abolished eventually."

Duncan Howorth, director of Abbey National Benefit Consultants, said: "My view is that you should always take the lump sum because it is tax free. You then have the flexibility to invest the money in the way you wish. Also, if you die, you can pass the lump sum on to your estate, whereas a pension dies with you. The dependants' pension paid by company schemes are always less than the member's pension."

"Whichever option he takes, Mr Robinson has got an extremely good deal from his pension scheme. If you were retiring with a personal pension, rather than from a company scheme, you would have to use part of your fund to buy an annuity, a fixed interest investment from which your pension will be paid. You would need a fund of £2.8 million to buy a £165,000 a year pension."

## COMMENT



ANNE ASHWORTH  
Personal Finance  
Editor

## Very glad that he was with the Woolwich

Peter Robinson must be glad that he was with the Woolwich. Or rather, with its pension scheme. The deposited chief executive's munificent early retirement package illustrates the benefits that membership of a good company scheme can bring. It also highlights a pernicious and little publicised flaw in some personal pensions, where enforced early retirement is penalised, rather than rewarded. On page 37, we report on the case of 50-year old Rodger Bass. Forced to give up work, after a transplant operation, he found that Allied Dunbar was preparing to slice away some £6,000 of his £14,000 fund, because he could not continue until 65.

Mr Bass is being required to pay most of the charges now that Allied Dunbar would otherwise have deducted from his fund over the next 15 years.

This is a trap that no ordinary individual investing in a pension could have foreseen. It is an injustice that the City watchdogs should now pursue, if they have any commitment to safeguarding our pension savings.

Yesterday Labour set out its policy to encourage the nation to provide for its old age. Deplored the statistic that out of every £4 invested in a pension plan, £1 will disappear in charges, the party claims that its stakeholder pensions will be low cost. But since it intends to involve insurance companies in the venture, this is one bit of the Labour pension dream that will not come true.

## All-time low

SAVERS have suspected for some time that their rates had never been so poor. They now have official confirmation of this view. *Moneyfacts* has analysed the rates payable since 1939 and concluded that instant-access offers are at an all-time low. The average rate is 2.4 per cent gross. After tax, this is worth 1.92 per cent to a basic-rate taxpayer and a Kate Moss-sized 1.44 per cent to a higher rate taxpayer.

The temptation for savers is to switch into stock-market based schemes that offer to boost returns by various ingenious means. Those who want a quiet life and shrink from pages of complex product particulars will be more attracted by National Savings.

NS rates have yet to fall. Income Bonds, for example, currently pay about 2.5 per cent more than the average 90-day account, their building society equivalent. The *Income Bonds* leaflet runs to six A5 sized sheets only.

## Misleading rates

ANYONE about to borrow is endlessly exhorted to compare APRs, the annual percentage rate being the best and most reliable indicator to the true cost of a loan.

When it comes to mortgages, however, this hallowed precept does not apply. The Scarborough Building Society has just been found guilty of displaying a "false" APR. Why? Because it chose to obey the rules (see page 37). These state that APRs for discounted-rate loans should be calculated as if the lower rate applied for the whole term, rather than for a short period.

In the interests of all home buyers, this misleading rule should be abolished. As the Bank of England is so eager to point out the dangers of low rate loans, its support can be expected for reform.

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Karen Zagor begins the first in a series on how shares of privatisation issues have performed

## Bob's your uncle at BT?



British Telecom may not have been the first company to be privatised, but it certainly had the biggest impact, attracting more than 1 million individual investors when the first instalment was sold in 1984. The initial issue was the epitome of Margaret Thatcher's dream of mass share ownership. It was aimed at the man or woman in the

street, with an extensive publicity campaign that included the creation of Buzby, the bird that sang the praises of wider share ownership. It was also Europe's biggest privatisation. The company now has more than 2 million shareholders.

How have the shares done? The answer depends on whether you are talking about

the first, second or third tranches, sold respectively in December 1984, December 1991 and July 1993. Those who bought into the first tranche were handed profits on a silver platter. The offer was priced at 130p a share. On the first day of trading, they posted gains of 43p. Subsequent issues were less generous. The second tranche was priced at 335p a share and the third at 410p.

When compared with the market at large, the share have underperformed. Today, BT shares trade at about 345p, reflecting a meagre four-year gain for those who bought the second tranche and a loss for those who bought the third.

According to one analyst, the optimum time to have sold BT shares was 1985. Those who bought shares in July 1993 would have seen virtually uninterrupted underperformance since then.

Has the share price reflected the company's performance? Not really. It is more a reflection of regulatory uncertainty, thanks to watchful eye of OfTel, the regulator charged with imposing price curbs in an attempt to break BT's monopoly in telecommunications by fostering competition. When BT was privatised in 1984, the existence of OfTel was not envisaged.

Twelve years after privatisation, BT still controls 90 per cent of the market. But OfTel's presence has effectively prevented BT from charging as much as it might want. Indeed, customers pay less now for phone services than they did in 1984, especially for international calls, which have fallen far more dramatically than local rates. More recently, the company's share price has been hit by the collapse of BT's merger talks with Cable & Wireless. BT needed the alliance to help it compete with international giants, such as AT&T of America.

How high are the dividends? Dividends rose 7.7 per cent in 1994, 5.4 per cent in 1995 and 5.6 per cent in 1996. They now stand at 18.7p per share and are expected to continue growing at about 5.6 per cent a year.

What does the market expect of BT?

BT's share price enjoyed a boost after an unexpectedly lenient price cap announcement by OfTel, the industry regulator. But analysts are



Bob Hoskins, the actor, likes nothing better than to get BT people talking

divided about BT's prospects, and whether investors should buy or sell.

Laurence Heyworth, at Robert Fleming Securities, is one of the bulls. "If you set aside the regulation question, there is no question that BT is performing pretty well. The most remarkable instance is the last quarter, when revenues were up 5.6 per cent. The rate of revenue growth has been accelerating for many quarters and that is encouraging."

"As far as the share price is concerned, BT is hugely sensi-

tive to very small changes in expectations for growth. If people get a sense that BT is performing better than expectations it will have a dramatic effect on the share price."

Others are less sanguine. In addition to concern about potential regulatory moves in the future, there is also the worry that a Labour government could hurt BT's profitability.

Plans to join forces with Tony Blair to link up schools, hospitals and libraries on the Internet may or may not soften Labour's stance on regulatory

issues. And BT may well choose not to embarrass its Labour ally by reporting strong profits. Instead, it could funnel excess money into company projects, which would not help shareholders, or the share price.

James Ross and James McCafferty, at Hoare Govett, believes the shares are now overvalued. "BT is a well managed company with a strong strategic position but its probable growth rate over the next few years does not justify a valuation much above current levels."

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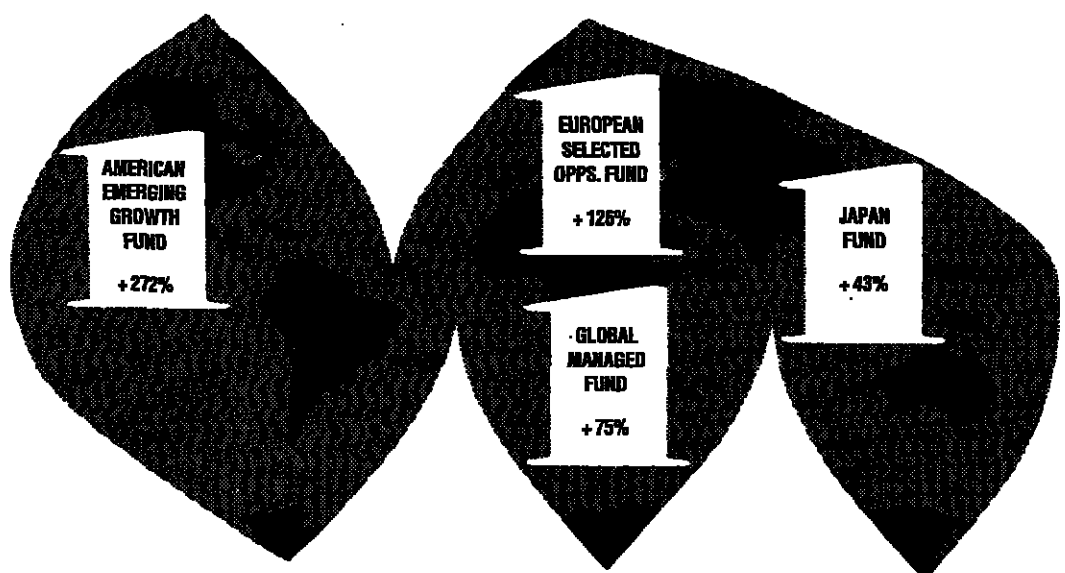
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\*Estimated gross savings/redemption yields, as at 11.6.96, both of which are net of annual management charge and fee-free in a PEP (equivalent to over 12% gross for a 40% tax payer). "An AA" rating is defined as meaning "a fund which provides very strong protection against losses from credit default". The value of this investment and the income from it may fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. Also, deduction of charges and expenses means you may not get back the amount you invested. Tax benefits detailed are those currently applicable and will vary from one investor to another and may change in the future. Issued by Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited, regulated by IMRO.

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سكوا من الاصل

BT?

Caroline Merrell assesses the uncertainty surrounding investment in the nation's nuclear industry

## British Energy still generates interest in spite of sell-off row

The public's appetite for privatisation shares is not waning. Despite the controversy surrounding the sale of British Energy, the nuclear generating company, around 1.7 million people have registered an interest in applying for its shares.

This week, the Government announced that the share price of British Energy was anticipated to be between 180p and 280p. The lower end of this wide range would put a price tag on the company of about £1.26 billion. This figure is half the Government's original target of £2.6 billion.

The Government put its change in attitude over the price down to the prevailing conditions in the UK stock market. This week, UK shares took a tumble on the view that a market correction is in the offing. Private investors who subscribe to the offer will pay 100p per share, which will give them a 5p discount on the institutional offer.

The total discount represents a saving of £15 on 300 shares — the minimum that can be applied for in the UK public offer. Stockbrokers

believe that this week's downpricing of the nuclear power generation company underlines the uncertainty about the long-term prospects for the company.

British Energy does offer good cash generation prospects. It is a "base load" generator, which means it always has a market for all of the power it can generate.

The long-term outlook for nuclear power generators is far from clear. There are no plans to build more power plants, and the eight power stations that together form British Energy have a built-in obsolescence.

Decommissioning and fuel reprocessing costs are also relatively uncertain — both of which can affect the profitability of the company. They will all eventually have to be decommissioned and British Energy will have to diversify to raise revenue.

However, stockbrokers anticipate it will still be a good investment for private investors in the short term.

One of the biggest attractions for small shareholders is likely to be the yield —

analysts believe this could be up to 9 per cent.

British Energy is planning to pay out £100 million for the first-year dividend, an amount which is twice the estimated first-year profits. The 13.7 pence dividend will be paid in two instalments — one instalment of 4.4p will be paid in January, the other 9.1p will be paid out in July 1997. British Energy investors will also be offered a 10p discount on the second instalment, or a one-share-for-15 bonus.

Jeremy Bairstone of Natwest Stockbrokers, said that, despite the down-valuation of the company, it still represented a good short-term investment. He said: "Over the short term, the dividends will be good. Over the long term, there are too many uncertainties."

Charles Galbraith of Lloyds stockbrokers, said: "British Energy is just another Railtrack. Private investors must not be too greedy. If you subscribe for too many shares, you may end up not getting any." The UK public offer will close at midday on July 10. The price for the company will be set on July 15.



Allied's managing director Ray Nethercott, centre, flanked by Shaun Dorn, left, and David Pout

## Allied Carpets seeks £30m

This week Allied Carpets, the UK's biggest carpet retailer, announced plans to float on the stock market. Private investors are being offered a chance to subscribe for shares through four selected share shops.

The company is valued at about £200 million, with the flotation expected to raise about £30 million. The minimum investment for private investors will be £1,500.

Allied Carpets was formed through a £9.3 million management buyout from the collapse of Lowndes Queensway five years ago.

The company is forecasting that its pre-tax profits will jump by about 19 per cent, to £14.7 million. It has opened 19 new stores in the last few months and is anticipating opening another 20 next year. It eventually aims to build up the chain to 270 stores, from the

current 207. Share price details will be announced on July 9, with dealing expected to begin on July 22.

Brokers are not showing a great deal of interest in Allied Carpets. Mathew Orr, of Killik & Co, said the level of the UK stock market was such that all share prices could fall.

He added: "You could construct a short-term argument for the stock. Any recovery in the housing market could lead to greater carpet sales, but it is coming out at a fairly full price. It is not necessarily the best moment to invest."

Those interested in applying for shares in Allied Carpets can contact City Deal Services on 01708 738887, Sharelink on 0345 665665, Neilson Cobbold on 0151 242 5214, and the Share Centre on 0800 800008, or any stockbroker.

## Customers love Somerfield

Somerfield, the UK's fifth-biggest supermarket chain, is also in the process of being sold. A fifth of the shares in the company are being offered to the public through seven authorised

share shops. The company is expected to be valued at about £500 million.

If retail demand for the shares is high, then the number of shares available to private investors will be in-

creased. In spite of some City doubts about the flotation, retail interest in the group has been high.

More than 60,000 potential investors have already registered an interest in the group. The offer for the shares is being promoted in the group's 600 stores nationwide.

Somerfield was formerly called Gateway and is owned by the Isosceles Group. Three years ago, the supermarket chain was close to financial collapse, but since then it has gone through a complicated restructuring and last year achieved sales of more than £3 billion. It aims to open ten stores a year over the next three years.

Stockbrokers are quite downbeat about the prospects for the company. Mr Orr said: "It is a pretty tough market for supermarkets. You really have to add value."



The Somerfield share offer is being promoted in-store

## Halifax poised for Bupa healthcare deal

The Halifax Building Society is expected to announce a tie-up with Bupa, the biggest private health insurer in Britain, this month. The news will come hot on the heels of Abbey National's deal with Norwich Union, and as the Office of Fair Trading prepares to publish an authoritative report on the pitfalls of the whole industry.

The healthcare industry is growing rapidly but is unregulated. More than six million people buy private medical insurance every year, but the OFT report, to be released within weeks, is expected to say that many are unaware of what their policy covers and that they do not always understand the pricing structure.

It is likely to suggest ways of helping customers to compare

products from different providers: most of the plans, at present, are so different that it is virtually impossible to work out whether you are getting good value for money.

One of the most worrying practices which the OFT examined was that of "churning" — where a sales agent advises a policyholder to switch to a different insurer in order to generate further commission. This could be particularly bad for someone undergoing treatment when the policy is changed, as many insurers will not pay for treating a medical condition known before the policy was taken out.

Legal & General said the OFT also felt that new customers were confused by exclusion policies in the small print.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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## It was 30 years ago today....

**Anne Ashworth and Sara McConnell look back to the dawn of the age of plastic**

Some things never change. In 1966, just as Barclaycard was being launched into a world where cash was king, there was debate over the fashions of the day (supermodels not having been invented). Concern was expressed over her bony frame in the same way that the fragile forms in pages of current issues of *Vogue* cause comment.

However, mannequins' earnings have grown fat in the interim. Whereas Linda Evangelista will not get out of bed for less than \$10,000, Twiggy earned just 10 guineas an hour. Her wage compared with £17-a-week for the average Ford worker, while a middle manager earned £30 a week. A glass of beer to cheer the England football team's World Cup victory over Germany cost two bob (10p).

Although the British public were unaccustomed to the credit card culture, they quickly became connoisseurs. A million people soon signed up for cards and their numbers have now swelled to nine million, making Barclaycard the market leader. The British have also shown themselves to be impervious to high interest rates. The current

bank base rate is 5.75 per cent, the Barclaycard annual percentage rate is 22.3 per cent, with no decrease expected. However, new US cards are now making a valiant attempt to make us more interest-rate sensitive. With a Barclaycard, it costs an extra £203.20 to borrow £1,000 over a year. This compares with £112.95 on the Robert Fleming Save & Prosper card and £146 on the new RBS Advanta card, a US joint venture with Royal Bank of Scotland.

### CHIP CARDS

From next year, Barclaycard and the other banks and building societies in the Visa network, including Abbey National, Barclays, Halifax, Lloyds TSB and Royal Bank of Scotland are planning to pilot

issue cards with chips which can "store" cash. Retailers who accept the cards will simply debit the payment from the total on the chip.

The chip will be standard, acceptable all over the world, unlike existing chip cards, which work only in certain areas. They say this card, called Visa Cash, is just the start. If the pilot succeeds, credit card holders could find their new cards equipped with an "electronic purse" chip when their existing card expires. The chip could potentially be programmed to access information networks, electronic shopping and other stopping points on the information superhighway. Barclaycard holders are likely to be early beneficiaries of this technological enthusiasm.

Part of the reason banks are so keen to develop chips on credit cards is that chips should make it more difficult for fraudsters to counterfeit cards. Any evidence that fake credit cards are circulating will be countered by banks changing the chip's composition. News this week that fraudsters have reprogrammed magnetic strips on supermarket loyalty cards will reinforce their determination.



Twiggy: Sixties icon

## Don't forget Tessa deadline

How time flies. It seems only yesterday that 2.5 million Tessa's started maturing and now suddenly it's six months on and the first deadline for reinvestment looms.

Investors can put all the capital saved in their first Tessa, that is a maximum £9,000, into a follow-on Tessa. But they have only six months from the maturation date to decide which Tessa to go for. For the first batch of Tessa's that matured in January, six months is up on Monday July 1. If you miss the deadline, you have to start at the beginning and can only invest in a first Tessa. That means the amount you can invest is far less (£3,000 in the first year and £1,800 in subsequent years up to the £9,000 limit) and the rates of interest from first Tessa's are considerably worse than from follow-on Tessa's.

Over a third of the matured Tessa's have not yet been reinvested. Where Tessa's have been reinvested, most savers are staying with the same provider. A key decision is whether to go for a variable or fixed rate. With variable rates struggling between 6 and 7 per cent (Northern Rock's 7.5 per cent is the major exception), fixed rates of 7 per cent or more look good. However, though interest rates are falling, the general belief is that they will rise over the longer term, and with them

variable rate Tessa's. That said, one of the best Tessa's on offer is a fixed rate – the Royal Bank of Scotland escalator Tessa, which will give £12,939 in five years time.

Alastair Altham of Johnson Fry Asset Managers says: "If you know you want certainty, then fixed is fine. But penalties are high for withdrawing, so if you think you might need your money at any point, you should go for a variable. Interest rates may rise anyway, so the variable is not necessarily the bad option."

The safest bet is to look for a Tessa with a low transfer penalty. If the Tessa you go for proves uncompetitive you can move your money elsewhere. Some providers charge a flat transfer fee of £30, but 180 days loss of interest is not unusual.

Since the first accounts were begun five years ago, a new-style Tessa has developed. The equity-linked Tessa locks into stock market growth. The latest is from Save & Prosper, which guarantees a minimum gross interest of 25 per cent at the end of the five-year term (5 per cent a year with the potential for bonus interest of up to 35 per cent (an extra 7 per cent a year) depending on FT-SE 100 index growth. It's one of the best rates among

its kind, but it still can't avoid the risk that the market can fall and you would be locked into a return less than the worst variable rate Tessa.

Mr Altham says: "Equity-linked Tessa's are not for the traditional building society investor, but it can be a tax-efficient way of going into equities. They are a useful option for someone who already has plenty in the building society. It's happy with equities but has used up their Pep allocation."

It is not necessary to reinvest your capital in a follow-on Tessa. Yvonne Rose, of independent financial advisers Diane Saunders (01132 689103), which offers a free factsheet on Tessa alternatives, says: "When investors first took out Tessa's they were being offered rates of 10 or 15 per cent. Most therefore have been disappointed with the payout five years on with rates halved. We suggest investors take a fraction more risk and look at second-hand endowment policies. Like Tessa's, you invest a capital sum with regular savings and you can go for a term of between five and ten years. Policies are currently yielding 9 to 11 per cent a year, compared with the 6 or 7 per cent from Tessa's."

SARAH JONES

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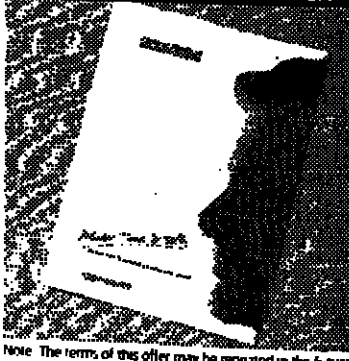
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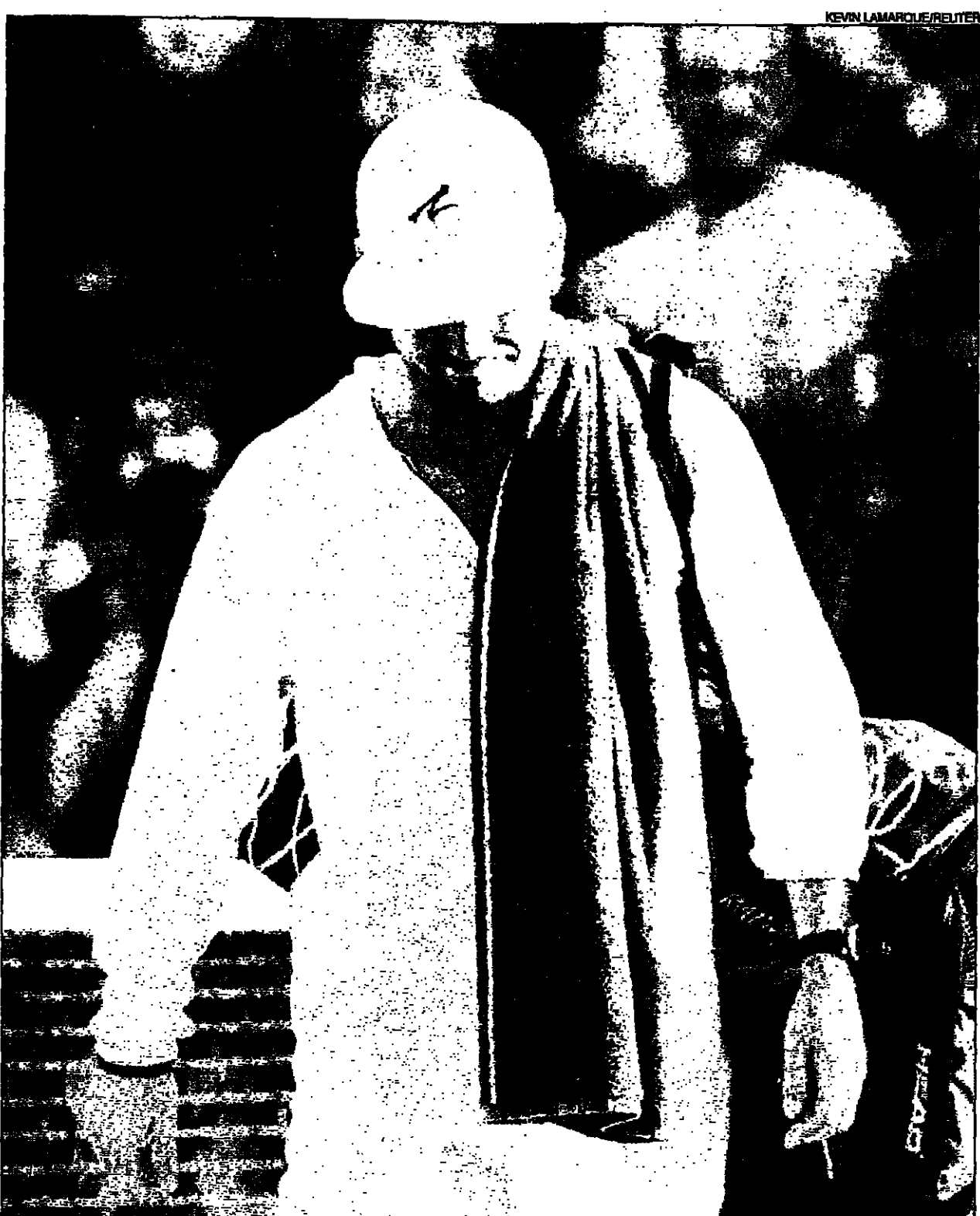
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### Sara McConnell on a sick pension policyholder who retired early



Early retirement: The agony of Andre Agassi after losing in the first round at Wimbledon

## Small print penalty

The possibility of having to retire early through ill-health is the last thing on most people's minds when they take out a pension. But they may have a nasty shock if they are forced into early retirement. Depending on the structure of their scheme, they could discover that their final payout can be substantially reduced through small print penalties, as Rodger Bass, a Weekend Money reader, discovered. Unable to work again, he now faces the loss of close to half of his pension.



pension early and I can take the full value of my £12,555 fund.

"I took out a Growth Retirement Plan with Allied Dunbar in 1973 which would pay out when I retired at 65. But at the age of only 50 I have been forced to retire early through ill-health. I have recently had a kidney transplant. Now Allied Dunbar has told me that although my pension fund is worth £14,123, I will only get £7,951 if I take my pension now, because 40 per cent of the fund will be taken in charges as a penalty for early retirement. I told Allied Dunbar that I have not chosen to retire but have been forced to, but it said this made no difference. I have another plan with Equitable Life, which I took out in 1987. I invested a total of £5,250 between 1987 and 1989. But it is imposing no penalty charges to pay me my

Weekend Money replies: "The main reason for the different payouts can be summed up in two words: charging structures. Allied Dunbar set up your pension assuming you would continue to make contributions until you were 65. Almost all your first two years' contributions went to pay set-up charges and the salesman's commission. Over the years further smaller annual charges would have been levied. But because you retired early, it was not able to take the charges from your contributions so it levied a penalty. Allied Dunbar says your penalties are particularly heavy because you only made two annual payments into the scheme, totalling £1,200. All of this was allocated to what are known as capital units. Unit-linked policies had, and sometimes still have, two classes of units into which contributions are paid. Capital units are heavily loaded towards paying set-up charge expenses and salesman's commissions. Hardly any of your contribution is actually invested on your behalf. Accumulation units, by contrast, are loaded in your favour, with most of your contribution being invested for your benefit. Insurers want to recoup all their costs at the beginning, so all contributions in the early years are put into capital units. This makes policies particularly bad value if they are surrendered early. In your case, says Allied Dunbar, if you had continued making payments, three-quarters of these would have been allocated to accumulation units after the second year so you would have received a better payout. But you would still have faced penalties for early retirement. Equitable Life operates a

different charging structure from Allied Dunbar, which works much more in your favour as a policyholder. It assumes that each payment you are making is a one-off single premium. It does not structure its charges assuming a certain retirement date so does not penalise you if you retire early. It does not "front load" policies in the early years because it does not pay its salesman commission, but salaries.

James Higgins of Chamberlain de Broc, the independent financial adviser, says: "People should have their pensions set up on a single premium basis rather than regular premiums" if you do start a regular premium contract, says Mr Higgins, set it up assuming the earliest possible retirement date to reduce charges and penalties if you have to retire early. You can always extend the term if you want to continue work. When you took out your Allied Dunbar pension, you were allowed to take your fund only between 60 and 75. But technically, you were allowed under Inland Revenue rules to take your benefits if you had to retire early through ill-health. Personal pensions introduced in 1988 allow you to retire between 50 and 75. Allied Dunbar has offered to reduce the charges by making a £1,700 ex-gratia payment.

## Confusion over start-up APR

Calculating the annual percentage rate on mortgages has become somewhat Kafkaesque this week. A building society has been found guilty of complying with the law and, having been found guilty, has been given an unconditional discharge. The consequence of this is yet more confusion. There are now many mortgages on offer with low fixed or discounted rates in the early years. The quoted APR will be artificially low because legally it has to be calculated as if the low rate applied to the entire mortgage term. In fact once the fixed or discount term ends, you will pay the much higher variable rate for the rest of the life of the mortgage. The East Riding Trading Standards has successfully taken the Scarborough Building Society to court for "false" APR calculations. As the law requires, the Scarborough had advertised a mortgage with a stepped two-year discount starting at 1 per cent with an APR of 11 per cent. The North Yorkshire magistrates court ruled that the APR was misleading to customers. Though it was found techni-

cally guilty, the society was not penalised. John Carrier, Scarborough chief executive, says: "We have been found guilty of complying with the law, but the most frustrating aspect is that we have not been advised by Trading Standards how we should now be quoting the APR." This ruling makes the APR even more confusing for the public. The Office of Fair Trading must review urgently the situation to ensure that it does not result in different lenders using different methods of calculating APR. The Office of Fair Trading however told *The Times* that it will not be reacting to the court case. A spokeswoman said: "We handed a review of the Consumer Credit Act to the DTI in 1994 with recommendations about clearing up the confusion over APR. It is now up to them." The DTI said it will be changing some aspects of the Consumer Credit Act but would not comment on changes to APR calculations. The OFT suggests, for example, that lenders make it clear that the quoted APR

is just for the discounted or fixed period and a second APR should be given for the current level of the later variable rate. In a separate development, Bradford & Bingley Building Society has withdrawn from sale all one-year discount mortgage packages. Instead it will concentrate on offering discounts spread over a longer term. The move follows concern raised by the Bank of England over problems with mortgage customers who may get badly into debt when the discount ends and the much higher variable rate kicks in. This problem will worsen if mortgage rates rise—as expected over the next two years. Chris Holland, of B&B, said: "Now that mortgage rates are at an all time low, it is time to move away from offers that encourage short-termism. We believe we are in at the start of a trend to offer lower discounts over a longer period." Its Choices mortgage offers discounts off the variable rate of 3 per cent a year for two years, 2 per cent a year for three years, or 1.2 per cent a year for five years.

SARAH JONES

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Sarah Jones says there is an inevitability about lower returns on savings

# Cheaper mortgages lead to thinner slices for savers

Take your summer holiday now before you get even less from your savings. Building societies are reviewing rates and, though nobody will put their hands up yet, cuts in savers' rates are inevitable once the lower mortgage rates kick in through August and September.

For many societies, savers' rates have become a sensitive area. "Those societies who want to remain as mutuals do not want to put themselves up for criticism by paring rates," says John Gully, head of corporate communications at the Portman. "They are also conscious that they still need savers to be able to play the mortgage market."

There has already been some downward movements. The Bristol and West has announced average cuts of 0.3 per cent on all but two of its savings accounts. At the Greenwich Building Society, effective from July 1, are between 0.25 and 1 per cent while the Scarborough's 0.25 per cent cut has immediate effect. Alliance & Leicester has cut the rates on its current accounts, Keyway and Linksave, by between 0.25 and 0.60

per cent. A spokesman says: "Rates generally are under pressure but we have no immediate plans to cut other accounts."

In spite of the lowest returns for 50 years, many savers are not venturing beyond the safety of the building society. Indeed, mutuals are hopeful that once savers have received their bonuses from converting societies, those savers will decide to return to a building society. However, other insti-

The fund invests in the short-term money market and futures and options contracts like gilts. It guarantees capital as long as it is left in the account for a full quarter. The current variable rate of 5.2 per cent (already down from the 5.4 per cent advertised in the leaflet) is the equivalent to a basic-rate taxpayer of 6.5 per cent and 8.7 per cent to a higher-rate taxpayer.

Friends Provident Flexible Savings Plan. A mixture of a

about what they are taking out. Secondly, there is some doubt over Friends Provident's performance history. Sun Alliance Azalea Growth Bond. This bond pays a guaranteed return of 33 per cent after five years, which is 6.6 per cent a year tax-paid for basic-rate taxpayers, and a guaranteed return of the original investment. There is also potential for additional growth based on the performance of the Nikkei 300 Stock

indices have come up with a few new products offering comparatively decent rates. The Cheshire's Instant 50 rewards non-access. Rates are fixed at 3 per cent gross for the minimum £5,000 investment to 4 per cent for £25,000. If you make four or fewer withdrawals in a year, a 50 per cent interest bonus is paid, bringing the top rate to 6 per cent.

Scarborough has launched a 100-day notice account, which pays 6.5 per cent gross (6.25 per cent for monthly income). Minimum investment is £1,000. Bristol & West has a fixed-rate bond maturing in November next year and paying 6.5 per cent gross (6.31 per cent monthly). Minimum investment is £5,000 and early access is not permitted. Northern Rock. From Monday, the society will allow existing share accountholders to transfer funds into the new Great North Postal Account without forfeiting their membership status when the society converts. This should appease somewhat those who complained that new savers were getting better treatment. Rates start at 6.25 per cent on deposits above £5,000.

## Societies who want to remain as mutuals do not want to put themselves up for criticism by paring rates

tutions continue to vie for business from disgruntled savers. Each week there is a rush of products claiming better rates than the building societies. The latest products include: Close Capital Account Fund. Calls itself a unit trust but is hard to pigeonhole. Close Brothers, the merchant bank, has come up with a fund that avoids income tax and takes advantage of investors' £6,300 capital gains tax allowance.

with-profits life policy and a unit-trust savings plan. The with-profits, that is the annual bonus, gives you some security while the unit-trust plan means you can vary, stop or start contributions. The returns depend on the performance of Friends Provident. You have to save a minimum £30 a month for at least ten years. "I see two problems with it," says Penny O'Nions, an independent financial adviser. "First, people may well be confused

Index. However, you only get 50 per cent of the growth of the stock market. Yvonne Rose, of the Leeds-based independent financial advisers Women and Money, says: "It is generally thought that the Nikkei is now at a low and can only go up, but if an investor is prepared to go into Japan, it would make more sense to take out an investment or unit trust, which give you the full growth of the stock market."

The building societies them-



BILL SANDERSON

## A QUESTION OF MONEY

### Sleep peacefully with financial strength

Anyone taking out life insurance or a pension policy should consider the financial strength of the company over which they are pondering taking out their policy. The relevance of financial strength may not be immediately apparent to the uninitiated, but over the long term it can have a considerable impact on the performance of the policy.

What exactly is financial strength?

Financial strength is a measure of the cushion of assets that a particular life insurance company has when it has met all its liabilities. The more cushioning a company has, the greater its financial

strength is deemed to be.

Why is financial strength important?

A life insurance company which has a financial strength that is flagging could be in danger of being taken over — this may or may not be in the interests of the policyholders.

Sometimes the policyholders will get a bonus added to their funds in the event of a takeover, but it could be that the company closes down the funds to new business.

Companies with closed funds are not under any pressure to produce good returns for their policyholders, because they no longer have to market them actively.

How is financial strength measured?

One way of measuring financial strength is to look at a figure called the free-asset ratio. This, as the name implies, is the ratio of free assets a company has once its liabilities have been met. Free asset ratios are calculated on an annual basis, and have to be declared to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Where can I discover what the free-asset ratio is?

The particular company's marketing literature may allude to the financial strength of the company, without giving the actual figure. Those interested in learning more can ask the company directly or speak to their financial adviser about the figure.

What happens if the free-asset ratio falls?

A very low free-asset ratio could lead to intervention by the Department of Trade and Industry. This department has a duty to ensure that policyholders' interests are protected adequately at all times.

The Department of Trade and

Industry may put behind-the-scenes pressure on a company to find a stronger partner if its ratio is very low.

A low free-asset ratio also means that the company cannot invest as freely in equities as it would like to, and instead will hold a greater portion of its assets in fixed interest securities, which may not produce as good a return as shares.

Is a low free-asset ratio always a bad sign?

If the life insurance company is the subsidiary of a much larger organisation, then the fact it has low free-asset ratio may not be quite as important, as a strong parent with a lot of assets offers protection.

For example, according to a recent survey from the trade magazine *Money Marketing*, Eagle Star has a free-asset ratio of 6.1 per cent — which could be deemed by some to be on the low side.

The low free-asset ratio is offset by the fact that Eagle Star is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BAT, the conglomerate.

What level of free-asset ratio is acceptable?

Opinion is divided about the level of free-asset

ratio which is acceptable.

Some financial advisers and actuaries believe that a free-asset ratio of 10 per cent or under could make the company a takeover target, while others believe that 5 per cent is a more relevant figure.

Companies with free-asset ratios of under 10 per cent for the year 1994 (the last available figures) include Friends Provident, Sun Alliance, Britannia Life, Clerical Medical, Sun Life and Guardian Financial.

For example, Britannia Life's free-asset ratio is around the 2.9 per cent mark, but as the company points out, the life company is a subsidiary of the Britannia Building Society, which is a financially strong organisation.

Britannia's free-asset ratio is in contrast to its near namesake Britannic which has a free-asset ratio of 28.3 per cent.

Of the companies mentioned which have free-asset ratios on the low side, Sun Alliance is merging with Royal while Clerical Medical is merging with Halifax Life.

Friends Provident is actively considering its future strategy. This may include demutualising or merging with another company.

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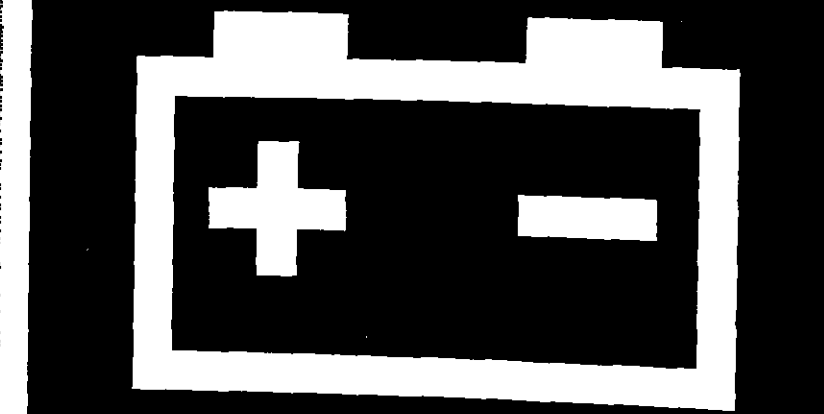
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£25,000 - £49,999	5.90%	4.72%
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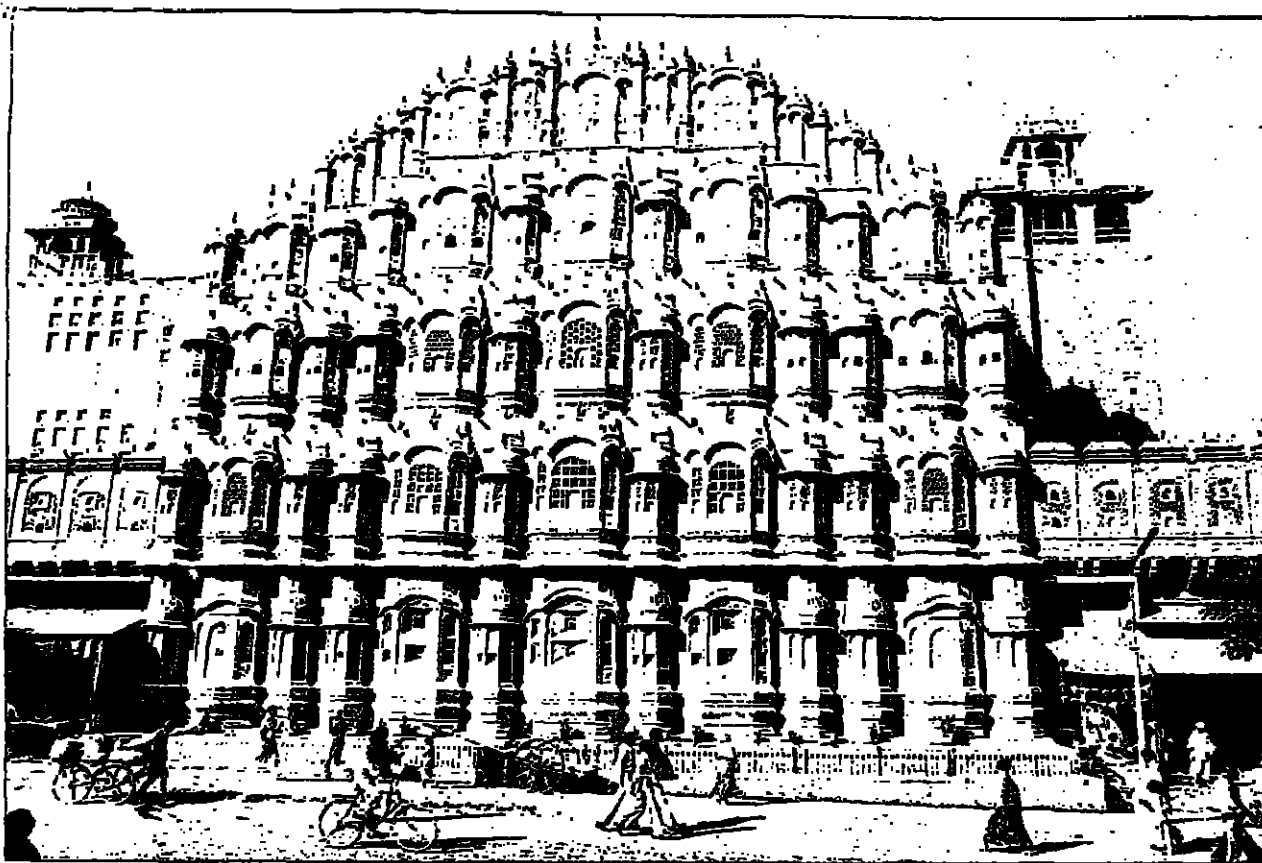
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Please send me details and quoting code T29/96.

## Helen Pridham looks at the trend to slimline initial charges



Wind of change: Fleming Indian Investment Trust annual charge is 1.2 per cent, but total management expenses were higher

## No dues is good news

An unpopular feature of unit trusts for many potential investors is the initial charge. Some people are put off altogether, others have turned to investment trusts as a cheaper alternative. But growing competition is now forcing unit trust managers to review their charging structures and investment trusts are no longer enjoying the cost advantage.

It is still the norm for unit trust managers to deduct 5-6 per cent from an investment at the outset. So every £100 invested immediately drops to 95 or less, and managers must make up this lost ground before investors see any gains.

One of the first leading companies to break ranks was Legal & General which has announced it is to abolish initial charges on all 21 of its unit trusts from July 1. The company predicts that lower inflation will mean stock market returns are likely to be lower for the rest of the 1990s and that fund charges will have a more significant impact on performance.

But its other aim is to attract more building society investors into unit trusts. Michael Hayden, Legal & General Unit Trusts managing director, says: "For too long unit trusts have been priced as specialist investment products. Abolition of the initial charge removes a significant barrier which has prevented equity investments becoming more popular."

Some other companies have already cut initial charges on unit trust Personal Equity Plans. M & G was one of the first to do so and it believes it has attracted more first time

investors as a result. Further impetus was given when Virgin Direct launched an index-tracker PEP with no initial charge last year.

The main purpose of the initial charge on unit trusts is to cover advertising and marketing costs, including 3 per cent commission to intermediaries. But a significant number of intermediaries are now prepared to return all, or part, of their commission to customers in the form of discounts to generate higher levels of business. They include Chelsea Financial Services in London, The Pep Shop in Nottingham and Unitas in Scunthorpe.

market will develop as it has in the United States, where around 50 per cent of unit trusts are no load funds sold direct to the public, while others are sold through intermediaries to investors prepared to pay a higher price if they want advice.

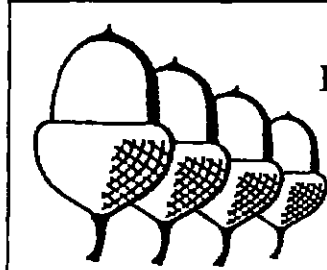
While they may give your investment a head start, low charges do not guarantee better returns. Recent research by Micropal, an organisation which monitors unit trust performance, found that many of the best performing unit trusts over the past three years have tended to have higher than average initial charges.

Annual management charges on investment trusts have also been increasing and specialist trusts can have charges of up to 1.5 per cent. Richard Elliot Lockhart, of Murray Johnstone, admits it is difficult for investors to know exactly how much they are being charged in an investment trust. He says: "Directors fees, the costs of promoting savings schemes and Peps and other expenses can all be taken out of the revenue or capital of the trusts."

These extras can sometimes double the annual management expenses. On Fleming Indian Investment Trust, for example, the manager's annual charge is 1.2 per cent, but total management expenses last year added up to 2.5 per cent, according to Credit Lyonnais Laing.

Comparing unit and investment trust costs should soon become easier, as companies will soon be required to disclose their charges in monetary terms. This should happen early in 1997.

Earlier this month, Portfolio Performance Fund was the first unit trust with a performance related fee structure to be launched. Annual charge is 1.75 per cent, but if it fails to achieve first quartile performance in its sector after the end of year one, the charge will be reduced to 1 per cent until it returns to this ranking. Investors should note that this unit trust has a double layer of charges because it is a fund of funds. Charges on these funds average 1.25 per cent per annum. There is already a handful of investment trusts with performance related fees.



## A GUIDE TO INVESTMENT &amp; UNIT TRUSTS

PART 7

Both M & G and Legal & General are still paying commission on their 'no-load' funds. To protect themselves against loss from early encashment, they have a sliding scale of exit fees for investors who cash in within the first five years. Other companies are aiming to attract business direct from the public. This is the approach being adopted by Fidelity, with its Moneybuilder range and Save & Prosper Direct.

Both offer trusts with no entry or exit charges. Barry Bateman, Fidelity chief executive, says: "We believe the UK

However, there are also plenty of poor performing trusts with high charges.

Until recently, investment trusts had tended to be regarded as lower cost than unit trusts in terms of both initial and annual charges. Most investment trust managers have schemes which enable investors to invest direct for a fee of only 1 per cent or less. Some, including Abtrust, Baillie Gifford, Dunedin and Finsbury Asset Management, make no charge at all. But extra charges are often imposed on Peps — some attract 3 per cent or more initial charges.

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Source: Micropal offer-to-buy, net income reinvested, UK Equity Income Sector. 15 year figure £2,243. Past performance is no guide to the future. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount originally invested. PEP legislation can change at any time and the value of tax concessions will depend on individual circumstances. The GT PEP is managed by GT Global Investment Funds Ltd, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. The GT Income Fund is managed by GT Global Fund Management Ltd (part of the GT Group) which is regulated by IMRO and is a member of AITF. Funded by GT Global Investment Funds Ltd.

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Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS and return to Investment Trust Helpdesk, Edinburgh Fund Managers plc, Freepost Edinburgh EH4 0HR.

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Please note that past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of shares and the income from them may fall as well as rise and may be affected by exchange rate movements. Investors may not get back the amount they invested. \*Source: Financial Times, 30 June 1990 (Launch date of SaveIT), then the FT All-Share Investment Trust Index to 29 April 1996, FT-SE-A All-Share Index, 30 June 1990 (Launch date of SaveIT), then the FT All-Share Investment Trust Index to 29 April 1996. Regulated by IMRO.

## HOR MISS

Unhealthy  
wealthy  
or wise  
at B&Q

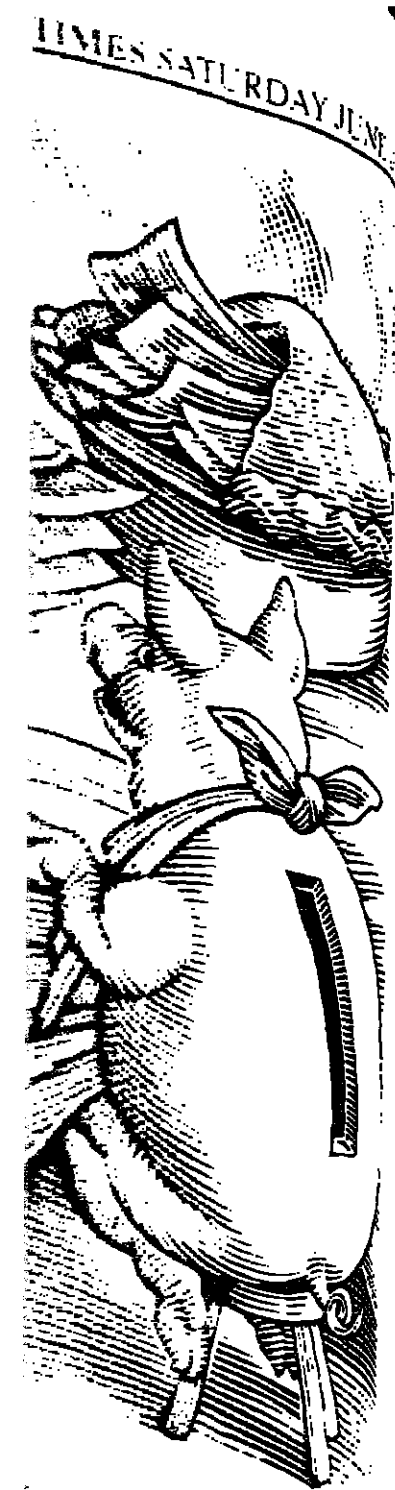
Members of the B&Q Over Sixties Club are being offered £15 of gift vouchers and a £2,103 lump sum on death — if they take out term assurance at £20 a month.

One club member is not happy. He is concerned that the offer is a rip-off that will appeal to the gullible. In fact, the merit of the offer depends on the state of your health. The Senior Security Plan from Cornhill Insurance is a life insurance policy for people aged 50-75. Pay the premiums for the rest of your life and on your death your family will get a tax-free lump sum. For a 70-year old man, cover ranges from £761 (for £8 a month) to £2,103 (for £20 a month). The benefit is paid only after the policy has run for 12 months.

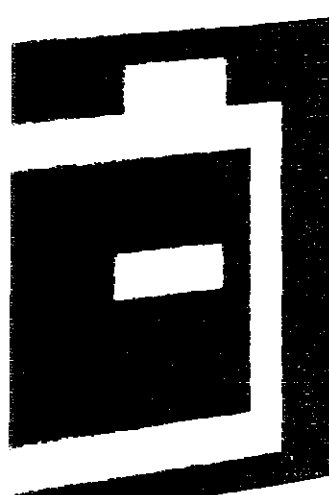
There is no medical qualification. However, that 70-year-old only has to live eight or nine years and he will be paying in more than his family will be getting back out.

Patrick Bunton at mortgage broker London & Country, says: "If you are in poor health then bite Cornhill's hand off, but if you are in good health you can get much better cover elsewhere."

A healthy 70-year-old man paying Royal Life £20 a month would get £5,537 — well over double the amount from Cornhill.



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## THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

## How to cash in on your home's value

MANY older people can find themselves in the frustrating position of owning a very valuable asset—their home—at the same time as having a limited income, according to Age Concern. If you are over the age of 70, you can remain living in your home but use its capital value to raise money through a Home Income Plan or Home Reversion Scheme.

Joining Your Home as Capital 1996-7 explains how the schemes work and highlights the problems and benefits which could arise. The book costs £4.95 and is available from bookshops, or Age Concern on 0181-679 8000.

Age Concern has also published a guide to employment options in mid-life. The book offers advice on how to cope after losing your job, retraining and education, plus how to deal with the financial implications. *Changing Direction* is priced at £6.95.

Moore Rowland, the chartered accountant, has produced a free booklet on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) to coincide with its first anniversary of its introduction. More than 160 companies have joined AIM in its first year of trading, raising approximately £350 million.

An Opportunity for Developing Companies offers a step-by-step guide to what AIM is and how companies can join and benefit from admission to the market. Call 01645 450400.

Hiscox Underwriting, the specialist insurer of high-value homes, has produced a booklet for homeowners planning to install an alarm system. *Beat the Burglar* provides comprehensive guidance on alarms and related physical security, from choosing an installer to methods of monitoring. It has been launched in response to growing concern among homeowners about the lack of independent advice on alarms. Call 0171-423 4210.

Only 26 per cent of those people looking forward to retirement are satisfied that they are making adequate provision, according to a recent survey by Royal Insurance. *Personal Pensions Made Simple* offers a clear explanation of the different types of plans available, assesses which one is right for you, and calculates how much should be paid into a pension: 0151-239 4012.

LIZANNE ROSE

## SAVERS BEST BUYS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Instant Access Accounts				
Portman BS 01202 292444	Instant Acc	£100	4.80	Yly
Alliance & Leicester BS 0645 645860	Instant Dir	£5,000	5.40	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Inst Acc Post	£10,000	5.75	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Inst Acc Post	£25,000	6.50	AYly

## NOTICE ACCOUNTS &amp; BONDS

Coventry BS 0345 685522	Postal 50	50 day p	£2,000	6.20	Y/Y
First National BS 0800 558844	90 Day Notice	90 day p	£10,000	6.20	Y/Y
Scarborough BS 0800 590578	Scarborough 100	100 day	£1,000	6.50	Y/Y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Postal Dep Bond	30.8.99	£2,500	7.50	F/Y

## CREDIT CARDS

Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	5 year	£8,975	7.50	F/Y
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	5 year	£5,000	7.45	F/Y
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721	5 year	£1,000	7.25	Y/Y
Principality BS 01222 344188	5 year	£500	7.00	Y/Y

## PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
PERSONAL LOANS				
Direct Line 0141 2489966	13.90E		£112.86	£101.33
Alliance & Leicester 0116 2626262	14.80		£116.82	£102.36
Midland Bank 0800 180180	14.90		£116.82	£102.49

NB: A = All withdrawals subject to 30-day loss of interest; C = No interest-free period; E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policyholders over 22 years; F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable); I = Introductory rate for a limited period; P = By Post only

\* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING.

Source: Moneyfacts. The Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01992 500 877)

## PIBS

Gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
FIXED RATE				
Birmingham Midlands 9.875%	99.88	9.376	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley 11.625%	119.89	9.696	100.13	1,000
Bradford & Bingley 13.000%	134.30	9.680	100.10	1,000
Bristol & West 13.75%	139.52	9.587	100.54	1,000
Britannia 13.000%	134.39	9.673	100.42	1,000
Coventry 12.125%	125.85	9.609	100.75	1,000
First National 11.750%	117.10	10.034	100.25	1,000
Halifax 8.750%	92.91	9.418	100.62	50,000
Halifax 9.000%	93.00	9.418	100.62	50,000
Halifax 9.250%	93.16	9.517	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck 13.75%	139.62	9.580	100.23	1,000
Newcastle 10.750%	115.49	9.296	100.32	1,000
Newcastle 12.625%	134.56	9.383	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock 12.625%	136.43	9.254	100.14	1,000
Scotiabank 12.875%	134.61	9.585	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE Gross coupon Buying price Gross yield Issue price Minimum purchase amount

Cheshire (28/09-21/03) 8.58750% 104.63 100.00 1,000

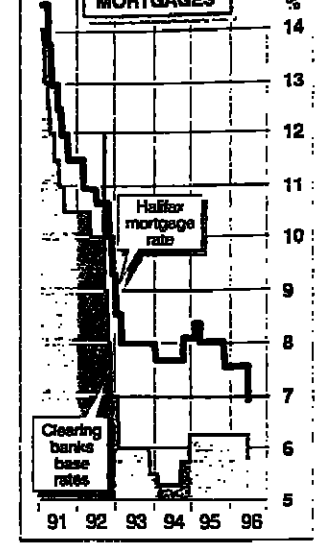
First Nat (20/03-05/09) 8.70825% 101.13 100.00 1,000

PIBS = Permanent Interest Bearing Shares. Source: ABN AMRO Home Govest - 0171 801 0101

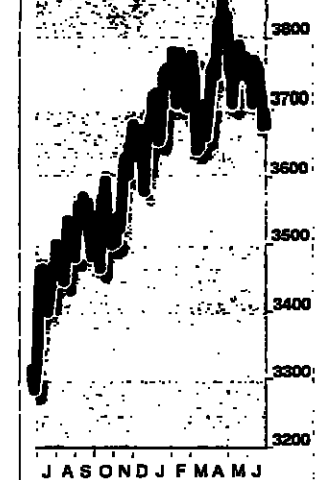
## SHARE IN FOCUS: NATIONAL EXPRESS CUTS TO LONG-DISTANCE COACH ROUTES

Jun Jul Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

## BASE RATES V MORTGAGES



## FT-SE 100 PRICE INDEX



## NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20% 40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact	
Ordinary A/c	1.75	1.40	1.05	10-10,000**	0645 645000	
Investment A/c	5.00	4.00	3.00	20-500***	0645 645000	
Income Bond	6.25	5.00	3.75	2k-25,000**	0645 645000	
First Opt Bond	6.25	5.00	3.75	1k-20,000**	0645 645000	
3rd Issue Cert	5.35		100-10,000	8day	0645 645000	
Children's Bond	6.75		25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000	
Gen Ex Rate	3.51		100-250,000	8day	0645 645000	
Capital Bonds	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-10,000	0645 645000	
9th Index Linked	2.50		100-10,000	8day	0645 645000	
Pensions Bond S3	7.00	5.80	4.20	500-50,000	60day	0645 645000

\* In £100, £140, £1 of tax free. \*\* Gross rates for up to £100. \*\*\* Additional funds up to £20,000 for investment purposes. \* Rates shown are gross and subject to change without notice. \*\* Rates shown are gross and subject to change without notice. \*\*\* Rates shown are gross and subject to change without notice.

## PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann) Male: Age 60 Age 65 Age 70

Prudential Level	£10,467	£11,495	£12,883
Stalwart Level	£10,322	£11,359	£12,748
Canada Life Level	£10,058	£11,121	£12,553
Norwich Un Level	£10,261	£11,221	£12,553
Strid Life Level	£10,136	£11,204	£12,584

SINGLE LIFE Female: Age 60 Age 65 Age 70

Norwich Un Level	£9,722	£10,458	£11,549
Prudential Level	£9,710	£10,443	£11,528
Stalwart Level	£9,419	£10,307	£11,168
Royal Life Level	£9,305	£10,138	£11,364
Strid Life Level	£9,372	£10,103	£11,186

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS Male: Age 60 Age 65 Age 70

Stalwart Level	£9,232	£9,905	£10,659
Prudential Level	£9,323	£9,895	£10,705
Norwich Un Level	£9,301	£9,847	£10,637
Royal Life Level	£9,464	£9,568	£10,378
Equitable Life Level	£9,563	£9,563	£10,278

\* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers. Source: Actus, Dec 01/71 688 6831

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

## GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Rates as at June 27, 1996

Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year		
5,000	AIG Life	4.85
10,000	AIG Life	4.95
20,000	AIG Life	5.15
50,000	AIG Life	5.20
2 Years		
3,000	Pinnacle Insur	5.70
10,000	AIG Life	5.70
20,000	AIG Life	5.80
50,000	AIG Life	5.90
3 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	4.75
10,000	AIG Life	6.03
20,000	AIG Life	6.08
50,000	AIG Life	6.18
4 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.00
3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.40
10,000	AIG Life	6.41
50,000	AIG Life	6.41
5 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.45
3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.65
10,000	AIG Life	6.65
50,000	AIG Life	6.70

Source: Chamberlain de Broé 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

## LARGER LENDERS

Building Societies

Bristol & West 0800 608088

Alliance & Leicester 0116 242424

Northern Rock 0800 591 500

Bank of Ireland 0800 400999

Bank of Scotland 01754 510100

Bank of Ireland 01754 510100

NatWest 0800 400999

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# The Pru in pursuit



**Marianne Curphey and Sarah Jones on a potential suit for the Woolwich**

Speculation rose this week that Prudential, Britain's biggest insurer, is clearing the decks before a full bid for the Woolwich Building Society after announcing plans to float off its reinsurance subsidiary. The Pru made no secret of its wish to spend some of the proceeds from floating Mercantile & General, estimated by the City at something between £500 million and £1.5 billion. Prudential said that these might go towards buying a building society or a mutual life insurer. The Woolwich, which has just made John Stewart chief executive, declined to comment beyond saying that it had not had any formal offers. Though the Woolwich has said it aims to float on the stock market, Prudential could bid for it before it converts. Alternatively, the Pru could make a deal with the Alliance & Le-



Offer? What offer? The Woolwich, headed by John Stewart, is keeping mum

icester or the Northern Rock, two other building societies with floatation plans declared. Bristol & West investors on Guernsey are turning after being told that they are not entitled to a bonus from the society's takeover by the Bank of Ireland because they are in Bristol & West International, and not the Bristol & West. Bristol & West International is a wholly owned subsidiary of the society. There are about 150 depositors many with accounts of £100,000 or more. Norman Dewey, one of 34 investors who have formed the Guernsey Action Group, said: "They didn't call themselves Joe Bloggs Banking Ltd, but Bristol & West International, trading on a name that we

would entrust our money to. We always felt fully associated with the society and feel it is morally wrong to now reject us as members." The Cheltenham & Gloucester, upon merger with Lloyds Bank, gave cash bonuses to investors with its subsidiary C&G Channel Islands Ltd. A spokesman for the Bristol & West said: "Bristol & West International (BWI) investors are not members of Bristol & West because BWI is a separate banking subsidiary and all its accounts are deposit accounts. The Building Societies Act only permits the Bristol & West to make cash payments to qualifying members holding share accounts." □ Building society members

excluded from conversion or merger bonuses continue to besiege Brian Murphy, the Building Societies Ombudsman, asking him to intervene. However, Mr Murphy is not empowered to deal with such membership issues, and he has reconsidered his call for new powers. He told *The Times* this week: "It is difficult to see how my terms of reference can be extended in this way without interfering in the democratic decisions of the majority of members." He now aims to seek a limited extension of his power to rule on complaints of maladministration in society conversions.

□ Additional reporting by Sara McConnell

## WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

### Paid in for 25 years — paid out for one

From Mrs M. Finlay  
Sir, I read your "Pensions Postbag" (Weekend Money, June 8) with much interest. I contributed fully from the start of the Pension Scheme after the war. In 1957 I was married but as I continued in employment, continued to pay in full. My husband was ten years older than me. When I was 60 in 1982, we both received full single person pensions. Then in 1983, when my husband died, my pension ceased and I received a widow's pension plus half of my husband's graduated pensions contribution of about £1. When I queried this with the Social Services, I was told only one government pension can be paid. As the widow's pension was slightly higher than my own pension, I was given a widow's pension. No mention was made of the full contributions I made as a married woman. I wonder how many other women have had this experience of paying 25 years for one year's pension?  
Yours sincerely,  
MARGARET FINLAY,  
119 Horsham Avenue North,  
Peasehatch,  
East Sussex.

### 'Illogical and savage ruling' reduced inheritance

From Mrs G. A. Guthrie  
Sir, I have a similar tale to that recounted by David Bruton in an article in Weekend Money, June 15, entitled "Inheritance savaged". In 1956, my grandmother died and left me a small legacy in trust, with the request that the interest which this earned be paid to a relation, who at that time wasn't well off,

during her lifetime. But on her death this year (40 years later), this relation's estate was large enough to incur inheritance tax. I was astonished and horrified to learn that because of this my original legacy was reduced by nearly 40 per cent — it had of course increased somewhat by investment over the intervening years, but in

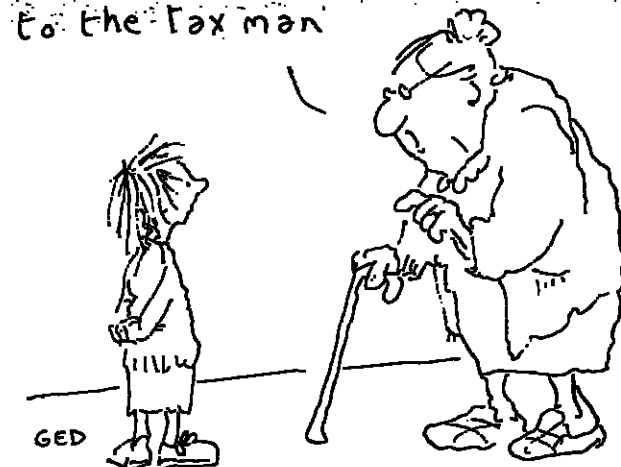
real terms remained the same sum.

Will some tax lawyer tell me what reason there is for such an illogical and savage ruling. The fact that the recipient of my grandmother's small kindness later became a rich woman has surely nothing to do with me.

Why on earth should a relatively poor person be subjected to a 40 per cent tax because of the unexpected wealth of someone else entirely?

Yours truly,  
G. A. GUTHRIE,  
55 Lonsdale Road,  
SW13.

I'll leave you some money, dearie, on condition you don't get rich and give my savings to the tax man



Letters are welcomed, but Weekend Money regrets that it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice given or statements that are made in these columns and it must be emphasised that independent professional advice should always be sought on investment matters. Letters to Weekend Money can be sent to the Business and Finance section of *The Times* by fax on 0171-782 5112.

### Telephone banking too complicated

From Mrs D. Bradley  
Sir, I read the letter from Li-Coi Tweed with interest. My bank recently sent me a letter advising that the branch would have a new phone number, that meant I could phone it from anywhere at the cost of a local call. Last week I needed to know if a cheque had been cashed, or been lost in the post. I dialled this new number, which appeared to connect me with Wales, and gave my name, account number and the cheque number and asked if it had been cleared through my account.

I was then put through a comprehensive grilling and informed that I needed two passwords and a security date before any questions could be answered. With great reluctance, and after querying things with a supervisor, I was told the cheque had not been cashed. Oh no, she could not set up the passwords, and I was transferred to another operator.

Having given them easily remembered words and numbers, I was then told this would all have to be confirmed in writing before I could use it. When the letter to sign came, I found that no, they were not going to use the whole words, but would ask what, for example, the sixth letter and fourth number were! I also find that I have to sign up for all sorts of services I am not likely to require.

I was unable to speak to the young man in my branch who knew all about the problem, since it is an ongoing one.

All this seems to me to be unnecessarily complicated and not in the least customer friendly.

Yours faithfully,  
DIANA BRADLEY,  
6 Ariel Court,  
Ashchurch Park Villas,  
W12.

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CYCLING: BRITISH OLYMPIC CHAMPION DETERMINED TO GO THE DISTANCE ON HIS THIRD RIDE IN THE TOUR DE FRANCE

## Boardman geared up for ultimate test of endurance

By Andrew Longmore

FLASH back 12 months to a wet and windy airport runway at Dinan in northern France. Chris Boardman is lying in the back of an ambulance, still chirpy, despite broken bones in ankle and wrist. He waves a bandaged hand as he is lifted into the specially chartered flight back to Liverpool.

Boardman's second tilt at the Tour de France has ended after 92 seconds on the soaked streets of St Malo. He would be back, he said, but a few old heads shook in disbelief.

Today, over a 9.4-kilometre course in the Dutch town of 's Hertogenbosch, Boardman renews his challenge for one of sports' most respected prizes. Some 21 stages and 3,835 kilometres lie ahead and the pressures are mounting on Boardman, whose total experience of the Tour is a mere 11 days in two years. Gan, the team sponsors, are waiting for the result before renewing their contract. Boardman's own contract ends this season and the Tour is the traditional starting point for negotiations.

The good news is that Boardman has moulded a strong team around him this year. If he wins the prologue today, which he should over a course built for speed, Gan, with hard men like Gerard Rue and Ronan Penec, are better equipped to protect the yellow jersey than they were two years ago when a chaotic team trial cost Boardman the chance of wearing yellow into Britain.

As ever, though, the real test begins in the mountains and much of Boardman's physical and mental training has been geared to mastering the art of survival. A recent day of

horror on Mont Ventoux, where Tommy Simpson collapsed and died in 1967, was a salutary reminder of how painful mere survival can be. Boardman lost more than four minutes on stage four of the Dauphine Libéré, a victim of fatigue and heat.

"It was 35 degrees and I felt awful. I saw some British spectators halfway up and I wanted to get off the bike and apologise. But I have learnt not to panic, to try to ride to my own capabilities and that is quite a trick. It's very hard to accept that others are better than you on the day, to say 'right, it's time to let go'. But you have to do it, you have to compromise and quite often you pick them up later because they couldn't sustain the pace."

Impressive results in the Paris-Nice classic, the Midi-Libre and the Dauphine have reflected well on the Englishman's progress from Olympic pursuit champion to fully fledged Tour pro and on the period of reassessment which followed his accident. "I'd had five years without a proper holiday. I sat in the garden and it was great. I was able to sit back and have a look at where I was trying to go. I knew I could carry on as I was, win a few races, earn some money and get out. But I wasn't going to win the Tour and I couldn't accept that. It's not in my nature. I have to go 100 per cent, to finish my career and say 'well, I tried the hardest I could and that's what happened'."

A frank talk with the crumpled Roger Legay, the Gan team manager, was the first thing on the agenda. Legay's

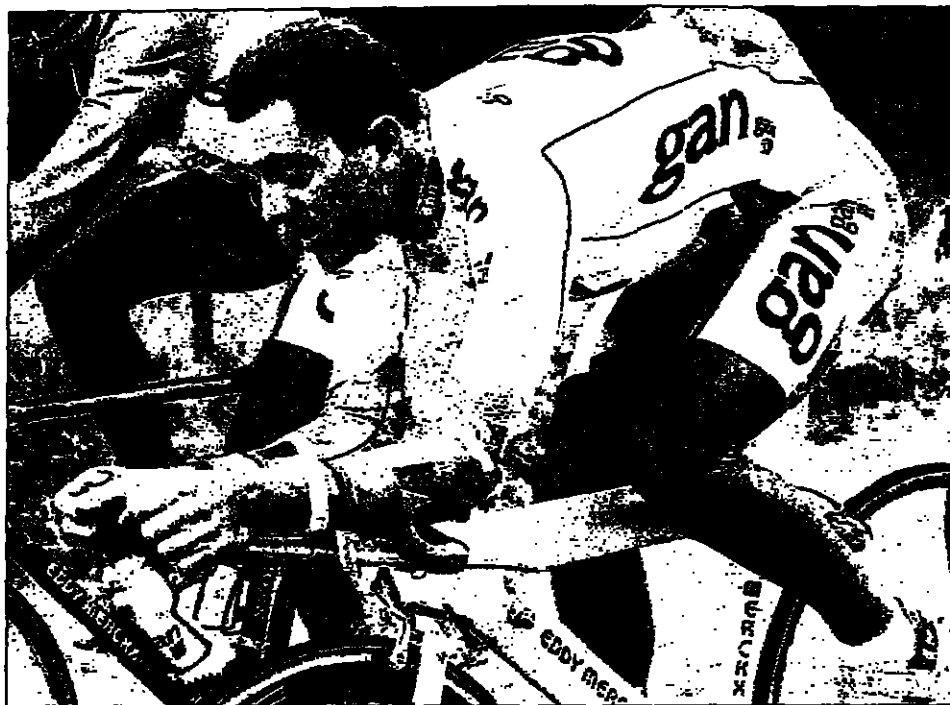
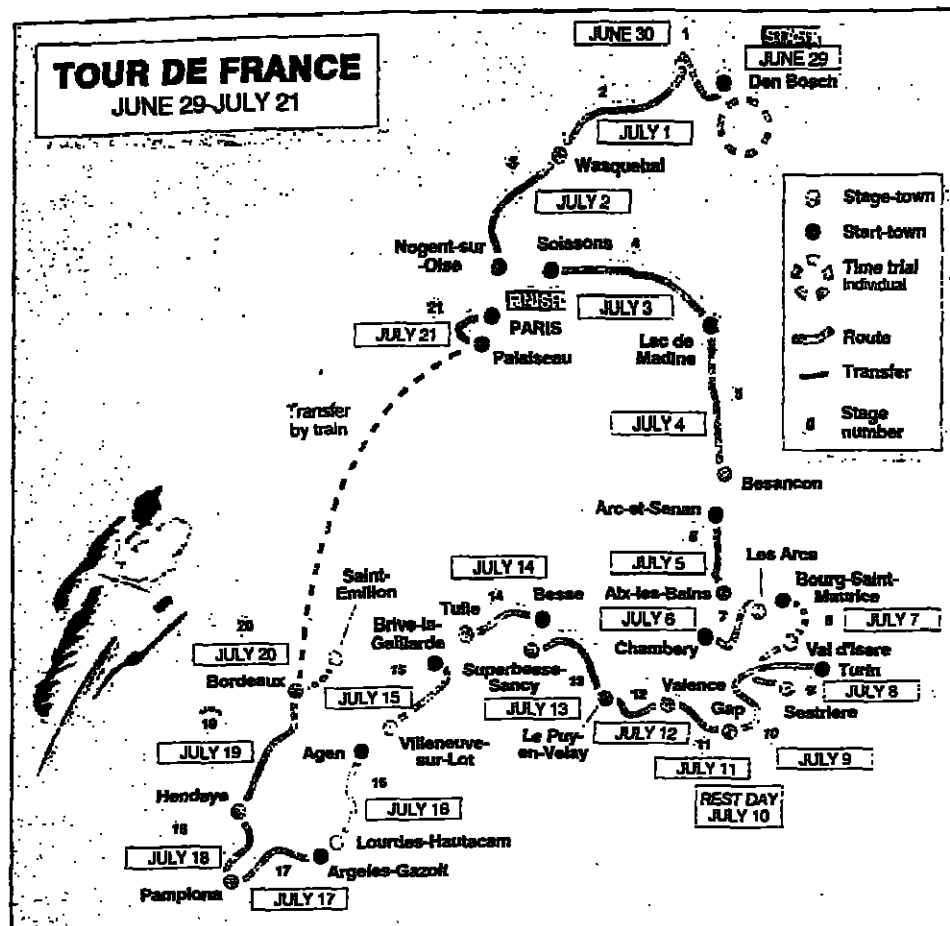
desperation to win publicity for his French sponsors last year prompted Boardman into that suicidal ride in darkness on wet streets.

"The prologue is a secondary objective. But winning it doesn't half ease the pressure on me and the team and I'll be riding hard as long as the conditions are reasonable. We then have to decide whether to go for an overall placing or protect our sprinter and hope to win a few stages," he said.

"For me, a place in the top 20 is a realistic goal. If I make the top ten it would be a really good Tour." Either way, Boardman will be trying to fulfil his own expectations this time not those of other people. Having watched Miguel Indurain win the seven-day Dauphine, Boardman has no doubts that a record-breaking sixth title is within the Spaniard's reach.

"He's so superb tactically. He'll wait and wait and wait until his rivals have worn themselves out and then he'll put the hammer down at the moment he can do the most damage. I can't see anyone beating him."

Only on searing afternoons in the Alps — on the Cols d'Iseran, Galibier and Madeleine — will Boardman discover his own limits. He has waited for three years and the suspense is starting to bite. Retirement is not an option this year. "The week before the race is very unpleasant," he said. "There are all kinds of pressures. A lot of time you're thinking 'I'm sick of this, I've had enough'. But I feel a more capable athlete than ever before. I've learnt how to do the best with what I've got."



Boardman, trained to the minute, is favourite to win today's Tour prologue

## Indurain still well ahead of chasing pack

By Peter Bryan

HOWEVER the cards are shuffled, the result is the same: Miguel Indurain seems certain to win the Tour de France for a record sixth time. Last year he became the first rider to triumph in the world's greatest cycle race five times in succession.

Indurain has had a series of pretenders yapping at his rear wheel since his first victory, in 1991. All have been seen off by a rider unique in the Tour's history and there is still no sign of a serious challenger.

Only disaster can prevent the Spaniard from wearing the leader's yellow jersey at the end of the final stage in Paris on July 21. He will make the most of his formidable climbing strength in the Alps and the Pyrenees, and if, after that, he needs to make a further effort, it will come on the penultimate day of the race, in a 63-kilometre time-trial from Bordeaux to St Emilion, long enough for him to gain a minute or two on any challengers still in the hunt.

Tony Rominger, born in Denmark and now a Swiss, won the Giro d'Italia last year and was a likely challenger to Indurain. However, he never got to grips with his rival and finished eighth, even though he, too, is a superb time-trialist on his day. This will be his last Tour de France; retirement calls at the age of 35. His best performance was in 1993, when he was runner-up.

Rominger will have the strongest team support, but has still to show he is capable of dethroning the king.

All France wants to see is its first Tour winner since Bernard Hinault won the last of his five in 1985. Now that Laurent Jalabert has established himself as the leader in the world rankings, the nation

will root for its Spanish-sponsored rider.

Jalabert knows the dangers of the Tour. He was seriously injured when he was brought down in a mass sprint finish to a stage two years ago by a roadside policeman anxious to take a photograph. His return to racing last year produced 30 victories, which included the Tour of Spain and fourth place in the Tour de France. This year he has won the Paris-Nice race and the Tour of Valencia, and will be joint leader of the ONCE team, with Alex Zülle, of Switzerland, runner-up to Indurain last year and recent winner of the Tour of Catalonia.

One of the few revelations of the 1995 event was Bjarne Riis, the first Dane to finish in the top three in the 93-year history of the marathon. He came close to beating Indurain in a 54-kilometre time-trial on the eighth stage. With five kilometres to go, Riis was five seconds faster but Indurain, starting later, heard of the Dane's advantage and won with a margin of 12 seconds.

Spain will mourn the day when Indurain retires, yet there is already a compatriot waiting in the wings: Abraham Olano, winner of the professional world road-race championship in Colombia last year on a flat tyre. Indurain, who also had a puncture, took the silver medal.

Olano rides in the same squad as Rominger and finished third this year in the Giro d'Italia, three minutes behind the winner, Pavel Tonkov, of Russia. Indurain is absent from the peloton in 1997, he would be a natural successor to the man who has set new standards in the Tour de France.

## Cycling legend guiding Hunt towards a new life in the fast lane



Hunt bares the scars of his entrance into the tough and demanding world of professional cycling

Riding the Almeria Classic early this season, Jeremy Hunt latched onto the rear wheel of a Banesto team-mate and was shepherded into the leading group for the final sprint. The shock only hit him later. His guide had been none other than Miguel Indurain, five times winner of the Tour de France, who begins his quest for an unequalled sixth title in the Dutch town of 's Hertogenbosch — or Den Bosch, as they call it — today.

The image says as much about the humility of the great Spaniard, the leader of Banesto, as it does about the precocity of the 22-year-old rider from Totnes who has surprised everyone by the speed of his graduation to the Manchester United of cycling teams. Hunt has ridden with Indurain five times this season, but it will be a year or two

before he can join him on the toughest of all road tests. His body is too tender, his mind too delicate, to tackle the 3,835 kilometres of the Tour this time.

There is still much of the schoolboy in Hunt's broad smile, ready laugh and fondness for the phrase "flipping 'eck", a legacy of a northern childhood. You suspect he sneaks down to the garage just to check that his white-and-blue Banesto-coloured bicycle, with the name "Hunt" discreetly imprinted beneath the saddle, has not dissolved into fantasy.

His memories of his first day in team colours are tinged with wonder. It was December 27 when the 18-strong team for the coming season was unveiled in Pamplona, Indurain's home town and venue for the eighteenth stage of the Tour this year.

Andrew Longmore meets a young rider nestling in the slipstream of success

"It was like my first day in school," Hunt said. "I didn't know what to do. I wasn't even sure how to eat my salad. Which fork should I use? I mean, this is one of the best teams in the world, with the best rider in the world."

He returned home with a suitcase full of kit, a brand new bicycle and an impression of Indurain that has been enhanced with every meeting.

"He just plays everything down, he's not big-headed at all," Hunt said. "At dinner, there are always people asking for his autograph and he signs each time, never asks the waiters to stop people coming over."

For such a well-drilled team, Banesto's relaxed training regime came as a welcome surprise to Hunt, whose own progress into the professional ranks after becoming national junior champion was the result of more of natural flair than grinding mileage. The team manager, Jose Echavarri, does not believe in the training camps favoured by most other teams. Each rider has his programme and is expected to follow it. Indurain knows his well enough and victory in the Dauphine Libéré earlier this month suggested he is again peaking at just the right time.

"He will be a kilo overweight on the first day and the perfect weight by the middle of the second week," Hunt said. "He has such power."

When you watch him close up, you can almost see the bike bend beneath him. Yet he hardly ever gets out of the saddle or changes his expression.

Hunt's own initiation into the rites of professional cycling began with promise — a second, third and fourth place within his first two weeks — but has proved increasingly tough. Adapting to a new cruising speed, to five-hour days in the saddle, has left his body in a state of shock. The scars of five crashes lace his elbows and legs.

He came from nowhere to take the British junior title five years ago at the age of 17, but his attitude had changed little since the day he won his first race, aged 13, wearing trainers and on the old road bike his brother now rides to the station every morning.

"I used to go out on my bike and ride for two or three hours, but I never thought of it as training," he said. Something in Hunt's laid-back approach and muscular frame attracted the attention of the Banesto scouts, who have a shrewd eye for moulding bright young talent. Hunt was offered a three-year contract and signed for two, figuring that he would know well enough by then whether he had been right to ignore the advice of his father, a doctor, and forsake his A levels for cycling.

Signs are encouraging. Hunt is still in there rooting for his team leader for the next three weeks while preparing for the European championships. And if he was wrong? "Well, it's not everyone who can say they've ridden for Miguel Indurain, is it? Nor that, for a few glorious moments, Big Mig rode for them."

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## Britain's finest prepare for white-knuckle ride

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

FOR the first time, this weekend, the world's top 18-foot skiff racers will be demonstrating what "white-knuckle" sailing is all about in Britain when the Prudential Grand Prix series gets under way in Falmouth, featuring some of the best Australian crews together with two British boats, including one sponsored by The Times.

The series, which is spread over four consecutive weekends at Weymouth, Torquay and Portsmouth, is the first step in a plan by Bill Macartney, managing director of Grand Prix Sailing in Australia, backed by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, to establish 18-foot skiff racing on an international basis with events in the southern hemisphere, Europe and the United States.

The 18-foot skiff is one of the polar extremes of modern sailing. Originally developed as a working boat on Sydney Harbour, it has become the fastest monohull in racing and a boat which demands tremendous agility, pure sailing skill and courage from its three-man crew.

The racing is very fast with speeds of up to 30 knots. Crashes and capsize are common as the sailors try to wrestle with a craft which has no natural stability and a huge sail area set on a banana-shaped mast with a permanent and menacingly-long

bowsprit from which the asymmetric spinnaker is flown.

The Times boat is skippered by Lawrie Smith who, although a world-class sailor, is relatively new to skiffs. With him is Zeb Elliott and Neal McDonald who are both past International 14 world champions, while McDonald is regarded as the top British skiff sailor, having raced for five seasons in Australia.

Smith was training on Southampton Water this week where his boat, emblazoned with The Times logo on its mainsail, was reaching speeds of 20 knots in just 12 to 14 knots of breeze. The five-times Ultra 30 champion summed up the challenge of the skiff: "It's all about boat-handling and keeping the mast pointing

upwards. It's similar to an Ultra but everything happens a bit quicker."

Smith and the only other British skipper in the series, Tim Robinson, on DBS Financial Management, know they have their work cut out if they are going to match the Australians on the water. "These guys have been doing it a bit longer than us," Smith said.

There are six Australian boats: Ella Bache, sailed by Michael Walsh who was runner-up in last winter's Grand Prix; Jacob's Creek, with David Witt one of the best starters in the business; Prudential, with Rob Brown, the favourite, and the dominant force in skiffs over the past ten years; Xerox, with Ezzanet Lazich, a three-times MSC, with Warwick Rooklyn who has 15 years of experience in skiffs; and Country Comfort, with the talented female skipper, Mindy Mehan, from Sydney who, at 22, is the youngest on the circuit. Making up the field of nine boats is Morgan Larson, from California, on Oracle, who was recently runner-up to Russell Coutts in the Brut Cup of San Francisco.

These 25-minute races are scheduled today, and two tomorrow on a course just below Penderennis Point off Falmouth. The first race today is due to begin at 1pm and tomorrow at 2pm.

The outbreak of peace was particularly welcome at Cardiff, where it added to the feeling of well-being engendered by the announcement of the arrival of Leigh Davies and Robert Howley from, respectively, Neath and Bridgend. Justin Thomas will also move to the Arms Park from Llanelli, and the detail regarding David Young's return from Salford rugby league club has been resolved.

I also received a letter from Neville Denson, who, for rea-

### RUGBY UNION

## WRU puts peace on the agenda

THE cream of Europe's clubs will gather in Dublin on Tuesday despite the tension that still exists between the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) and its leading clubs (David Hands writes). Earlier this week the WRU withdrew the invitation to its clubs to participate in European competitions next season, but yesterday a truce between the two factions was agreed.

The meeting had been planned as an opportunity for the 44 contestants to meet Roger Eickering, the new chief executive of the European Rugby Cup Ltd, and to study the participation agreement and sponsors' requirements.

It was placed in jeopardy by the apparent failure of the Welsh clubs to comply with the qualifying requirements of their own union relating to participation in domestic competition.

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## Undone by naked enthusiasm

NOW I know you have all been on tenterhooks after last week's announcement in this space about the impending nude baseball game in California. You will recall that, in order to sell seats for the Palm Springs Suns — a minor league club, and not quite the hottest ticket in town — the promoters came up with a Clothing Optional night. Those who wished to watch the Suns do battle with the mighty Grays Harbour Gulls, and to do so naked, were to be accommodated in a special enclosure, screened to protect them from the gaze of the prurient.

Alas, it did not happen — because too many wanted to do it. "So many people wanted to come we could have filled Dodger Stadium," Tom Mulhall, sponsor of the fixture and owner of the Terra Costa Inn, a nearby resort where patrons are encouraged to take all their clothes off, said. "We were concerned we might have a safety and security problem." An opportunity to make history has been lost.

Missed member

This column recently told you that there have only been two Labour MPs who were also first-class cricketers. Stephen Best writes to tell me that I am sadly in error: I missed out A. M. Crawley, Labour MP for Buckingham (1945-51); and later Conservative MP for West Derbyshire (1962-67). He played 87 first-class matches, 33 of them for Kent, and his highest score was 204 for Oxford University.

I also received a letter from Neville Denson, who, for rea-

sons that I cannot fathom, followed the piece on parliamentary cricketers by informing me that the ranks of first-class cricketers also include eight Pratts, five Burkes and a Bastard. The last mentioned is Edward William Bastard, who played for Oxford University and Somerset from 1882 to 1885. He played 37 first-class matches and took 137 wickets at 21.07. The first and last Bastard in cricket, no doubt.

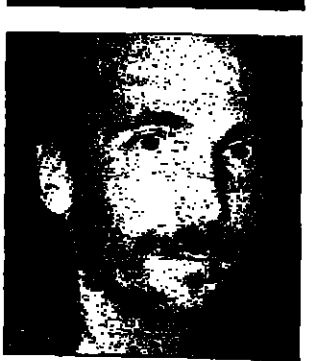
Sizzling stakes

Just in case tomorrow's European championship final does not fill you from head to toe with tingling excitement, the spread betting firm Sporting Index offers the chance to add to the many and various excitements of the occasion with a bet on the number of corners that take place in the match. They offer a quote from 9-10. Has Fila considered settling drawn matches with a Golden Corner competition?

Numbers game

We live in strange and stirring times. As the Berlin Wall between rugby union and rugby league collapses, I learn that Smith Brothers RUPC is to resign from the Cumbria Rugby Union — and join the Cumbrian Amateur Rugby League. They do so for the best of reasons: because it is easier to put out a team of 13 than one of 15. "In the end, it's not such a big deal for the lads," Michael Morsley, the club secretary, said. "It's just a matter of having a game of rugby." Marvellous! Progress! And to think that it took only 100 years for the human race to work this out!

### SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

### Corking quiz

Cricket literature's latest blockbuster, *Uncorked!* (not this column's exclamation mark) by Dominic Cork, kindly includes before its main text a key to the nicknames used *passim*. This week's competition: can you guess which famous cricketers are known by the follow-



Sorry, he's out

ing nicknames? 1. Athers. 2. Hickie. 3. Stewie. 4. Thorpey. 5. Tuffies. Answers at the foot of the page.

### Charity chucka

My greatest regret of the year so far is that I had to turn down an invitation to play polo for John Francombe's team against a team of three-day eventers and another of National Hunt jockeys. The event goes on regardless: tomorrow, at Tidworth Polo Club in Hampshire, they are holding a charity day, to raise money for the charities Inspire and Sia, in aid of the victims of spinal injuries. However, I wish them all a wonderful day and a huge attendance. Oh, and entry and car-parking are free.

### Costly coverage

Two rather tricky bits of news from Atlanta, Cobb County, already acquiring a reputation as the redneck capital of the world, has announced that anyone who is taken to its hospitals during the Olympic Games will have to pay medical costs in advance. Perhaps worse news comes from the Atlanta mayor, Bill Campbell, who has "forbidden" taxi drivers to make surcharges during the Games.

"We simply cannot allow price-gouging to become an Olympic event," he said. It's all very well for him: how are we supposed to fiddle our expenses after such an announcement? This is nothing less than naked hostility to the media.

Answer to quiz: don't be bloody ridiculous.



CRICKET

# Unsuitable pitch poses threat to Edgbaston status

ALAN LEE



Cricket Correspondent

AS THE England selectors meet this evening with the final Test against India in mind, the repercussions of the first Test are still being felt. The unsuitable nature of the Edgbaston pitch, on which England won before lunch on the fourth day, has brought action from the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), who have summoned Warwickshire officials to appear before their pitches committee next Tuesday.

Tim Lamb, cricket secretary of the TCCB, made Warwickshire's predicament clear yesterday, saying: "The Board is concerned about pitch preparation at Edgbaston and we will be doing everything we can to sort it out. Things need to be addressed urgently and Warwickshire have to accept there is a problem."

Thus far, Warwickshire have done no such thing and Dennis Amiss, the chief executive, was still insisting yesterday: "We are not on the mat. This is a routine meeting of the pitches committee." As Amiss must surely acknowledge, however, it is by no means routine for officials of a Test match ground to be called before the committee.

Warwickshire are to be represented at the meeting by Steve Rouse, their groundsman, and Mike Hurst, the chairman of their House and Grounds committee. "The aim is to try to help our efforts to improve the Test wicket," Amiss explained. "We felt this year's pitch was better but we are still not satisfied. We are looking for further improvement and we believe the measures we are taking will achieve that."

Amiss spent much of the Test match, and the days that followed, defending the indefensible with a rare passion. He should know, however, that there was a view among senior England players that this year's pitch was even worse than the surface on which West Indies won inside seven sessions last summer. He must also know that it is unacceptable to stage two such games in successive years.

I understand that both Test pitches attracted a marking of 'below average'. In addition, Warwickshire carry the endorsement of a "poor" mark following the fiasco last August when the showpiece four-day game of the Young Australia tour, ironically against a TCCB XI, ended inside two days.

Mike Smith, the Warwickshire chairman, has consistently supported Amiss's view that criticism of their pitches is misplaced, but other members of the county committee are said to have forced a lengthy debate on the issue at a meeting last week.

The underlying threat is that Warwickshire will lose, at least temporarily, their Test match status. They are guaranteed the first Test against Australia next June but, in 1998, when South Africa are the touring team, one established ground will miss out. The TCCB's move has confirmed that Warwickshire are the county under pressure.

Nick Knight, the Warwickshire opener who had a finger broken by the uneven bounce during that Test, has not played since. Surprisingly, however, Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, refuses to discount him from the party that will be named tomorrow for the third match at Trent Bridge. If Knight declares himself fit to

play at Lord's tomorrow, then, according to Illingworth, he will be considered for selection.

Realistically, it would be foolish for England to take a risk and it is far more likely that Alec Stewart will continue to open the innings. Others who will be discussed for the position include Stewart's Surrey team-mate, Mark Butcher, 23, a left-hander who has 11 scores above 50 to his name this season and has greatly impressed David Lloyd, the England coach.

The remainder of the top-order batsmen seem to be secure — if, at present, apparently jaded — but there is sure to be renewed debate over the No 6 position, in which Ronnie Irani has so far been promising rather than convincing. His batting is sturdy and self-assured but his bowling is not yet of Test standard. At least for this game he seems likely to play as one of four seamers rather than one of five, which gives him a more significant role.

Min Patel, of Kent, who was the man left out to accommodate the one-dimensional attack at Lord's, will surely play this time and, on a pitch that has befriended batsmen all season, Illingworth, at least, may press for the inclusion of a second spin bowler in the party. This move will probably be resisted, the final topic for discussion at the meeting in Manchester involving Peter Marlin, whose place is under threat from both Darren Gough and Andy Caddick.

Caddick has evidently put his shin injury behind him at last and is bowling with the skill and hostility of old, but Gough, who has recaptured his late swing and that elusive knack of taking key wickets, remains ahead of him in the queue. Quicker and thus more penetrating than Martin, he would be my choice for a game in which England will find it difficult to bowl India out twice.

My XI would be: Atherton, Stewart, Hussain, Thorpe, Hick, Irani, Russell, Lewis, Cork, Mullally, Gough, Patel.



Moles hits out for Warwickshire before rain intervened at Lord's yesterday

## Hollioake grinds Essex down

By JACK BAILEY

**SOUTHEND** (second day of four): Essex, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 342 runs behind Surrey

THE rain did Essex and the spectators a good turn yesterday, the showers either side of lunch having a dual effect. On the one hand, 14 overs were consigned to oblivion; on the other, the time elapsing between the rain arriving and the covers being put on freshened the pitch.

In both cases the result was beneficial: 14 fewer overs of watching Surrey grinding out runs and the creation of a livelier pitch that refreshed and motivated the Essex attack.

adding 60 runs to the 416 for four they had accumulated before the rain. Now there was some sort of balance between bat and ball, some tangible meaning to the cricket.

All of which lightened the hearts of a good crowd at Southchurch Park. More than 5½ hours of Hollioake, battling away for his 128, had dulled the senses. Much more to their liking was the clatter of wickets as Surrey were thrust ever more onto the defensive. Mercifully, Stewart declared, after 131 had been added in 47 overs, and left Graham Gooch and Paul Grayson to negotiate an awkward ten overs before tea.

Facing the daunting task of making 327 to save the follow-

on, the Essex openers put on an enterprising century stand in only 28 overs. Grayson, the fledgling, outpaced the old hawk, Gooch, who nodded approvingly from time to time as Grayson reached his 50 from 81 balls. Gooch remained firm although Essex lost three wickets in the final six overs of the day.

Perhaps it was Thorpe's early dismissal, bowled by Such when five yards down the pitch, that caused Surrey to hoist warning notices. Whatever the reason, and commendable in some ways though Hollioake's third century of the season may have been, Surrey's batting lacked ambition in terms of winning this match.

## Rain holds up Moles with long march in prospect

By PAT GIBSON

**LORD'S** (second day of four): Warwickshire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 337 runs behind Middlesex

FOR Shaun Pollock, it was one of the most meaningful days of his young cricket life. For the rest of us, it was a tedious experience as the rain, which had already held up play twice in the morning, stopped Warwickshire in their tracks just as they were mounting a positive response to Middlesex's total of 413.

Pollock was delighted to have taken six for 56 on his first appearance at Lord's. He had not only returned his best figures in the championship but the ease with which he mastered the notorious slope suggested that he will be an even more formidable proposition when he comes back with South Africa in 1998.

He took only two more wickets yesterday but the first was the important one of Ramprakash, who had added only five to his overnight 164 when he gave Ostler his fourth catch at second slip. Ramprakash had batted for six hours 36 minutes, hit a six and 17 fours and, once again, made the England selectors sit up and take notice.

The persevering Dougie Brown took Middlesex's next three wickets but not before Keith Brown, who had helped Ramprakash add 184 for the sixth wicket, had extended his stay to more than five hours for 79 and Johnson, Fay and Fraser had all made useful runs.

The final total was far in excess of Middlesex's expectations when they were limping along at 138 for five but, if they thought that their seamers would be able to get as much out of the pitch as Pollock had done, they were rapidly disabused by Moles and Neil Smith.

Moles is respected throughout the counties as one of the most accomplished opening batsmen on the circuit but Smith is better known as a one-day hitter. Here, however, he looked like a real batsman until Tufnell came on and, had him leg-before to his second ball.

## Yorkshire frustrated by resolute resistance from Curtis

By ALAN LEE

**WORCESTER** (second day of four): Worcestershire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 174 runs behind Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE drew level with an inactive Kent at the head of the championship yesterday but it was not quite the day they had in mind. Rain washed out the first session and badly disrupted the last, leaving a sandwich of play in which Tim Curtis demonstrated that he remains the most obstinate of batsmen, if not the most attractive, while Peter Hartley left the field with a side strain.

Resuming with the object of scoring 38 more runs for maximum bonus points, Yorkshire had managed only nine while losing their remaining three wickets. Scott Ellis concluded a satisfactory first championship bowl with his third wicket, that of Darren Gough, before Stuart Lampitt hit the stumps twice in an over to record his best figures of the season.

This will not have distressed Yorkshire, who felt that 321 was a serviceable score on a pitch of few virtues. This view was endorsed when they took the first three Worcestershire wickets for 88, arousing fleeting thoughts of a follow-on before close of play. Curtis would have none of it.

The senior professional relinquished his usual opening position, allowing the young flatmates, Weston and Church, to go in first. Weston was put down, cutting hard to Bavan at gully, before an inswinger from the buoyant Gough caught him in front, but it was an over from Chris Silverwood, in which Church was leg-before and Moody bowled second ball, off his pads, that established Yorkshire's command.

It was to be their last success of the day. Curtis retains the ability to scratch out an unlovely survival and he has batted 2½ hours for his 30. Far more fluent, within an unbroken stand of 89, was Reuben Spiring, enjoying his fifth score above 50 in his first six championship games.

## Ambrose brings victory within reach

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

**DURHAM** and Northamptonshire, who began the present round of county championship matches as the only teams without a victory, are both strongly placed to get off the mark, although Northamptonshire will await with some anxiety the conclusions of Harry Brind, the Test and County Cricket Board pitch inspector, who paid them a visit yesterday.

After the fall of 20 wickets

on the first day, Derbyshire cleared their arrears of 112 for the loss of only Kim Barnett and Adrian Rollins before they were rocked by another inspired burst from Curtly Ambrose.

A score of 136 for two quickly turned into 144 for six, Ambrose taking three of the balls, including that of Chris Adams, who hit an impressive 68. Karl Kricken, with an unbeaten 42, then took Derbyshire to 210 for seven, but they are only 98 ahead.

Barry Dudson, one of the umpires at Chester-le-Street, where 15 wickets fell on the first day, said that although the officials had been in contact with Lord's, "the scores in no way reflect the standard of the pitch. Both sides battled without confidence." Although Tim Hancock found enough of that elusive quality to make an unbeaten 65, Gloucestershire were all out for 166, the last three wickets falling for two runs.

Melvyn Betts finished with

career-best figures of five for 68 for Durham, who finished the day exactly 100 ahead, thanks to an unbroken second-wicket partnership of 70 between Stewart Hutton and John Morris.

The Indians, having sacrificed the opportunity to enforce the follow-on against British Universities at Fenners, batted out the match with Rahul Dravid, a first-innings failure, making an unbeaten 101, his first century of the tour.

### YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

#### British Assurance County Championship

##### Durham v Gloucestershire

**CHESTER-LE-STREET** (second day of four): Durham, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 101 runs ahead of Gloucestershire

**DURHAM:** First Innings 175 (A M Smith 41 for 39)

**Second Innings**

S L Campbell lbw b Smith 14  
S Hutton not out 39  
J E Morris not out 39  
Extras (lb 4, nb 1) 5  
Total (1 wk) 166

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-22, 2-29, 3-29, 4-36, 5-57, 6-117, 7-137, 8-164, 9-165

**BOWLING:** Smith 8-29-1, Lewis 9-5-11-0, Alleyne 9-3-22-0, Boden 7-1-25-0, Ball 1-1-0-0

**GLoucestershire:** First Innings

A J Wright b C L Campbell 5  
N J Tranter not out 12  
H C Hancock not out 15  
R I Dawson lbw b Smith 16  
A Symonds lbw b Brown 15  
M W Alleyne c Ugenwood b Betts 8  
"H C Russell c S L Campbell b Betts 20  
M C J Ball b Betts 17  
A M Smith c Sturkman b Brown 13  
D J P Boden c Ugenwood b Brown 1  
J Lewis b Betts 1  
Extras (lb 4, w 1, nb 4) 9  
Total (52.1 overs) 166

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-12, 2-22, 3-29, 4-36, 5-57, 6-117, 7-137, 8-164, 9-165

**BOWLING:** Brown 20-4-59-3, Ugenwood 14-4-3-0, C L Campbell 12-1-20-1, Betts 18-1-0-68-5, Bailbridge 4-1-4-0

**Bonus points:** Durham 4, Gloucestershire 4

**Umpires:** B Dudson and V A Holder

##### Essex v Surrey

**SOUTHEND** (second day of four): Essex, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 342 runs behind Surrey

**SURREY:** First Innings

D J Bicknell c Grayson b Irani 30  
M A Butcher c Law b Chitts 143  
C P Thorpe b Smith 17  
A D Brown c Law b Such 128  
A J Hollioake c Hussain b Cowan 33  
B P Julian lbw b Irani 8  
"A J Stewart lbw b Irani 2  
M P Bicknell not out 10  
J E Benjamin not out 33  
Extras (lb 3, lb 21, w 5, nb 4) 39  
Total (8 wkts dec) 478

**Score at 120 overs:** 373-4

**R M Pearson** did not bat

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-75, 2-97, 3-156, 4-357, 5-444, 6-446, 7-464, 8-469

**BOWLING:** Irani 17-3-69-1, Irani 13-1-47-2, Chitts 42-13-

116-1, Such 38-11-102-2, Grayson 12-1-35-0, Law 2-0-11-0

**Essex:** First Innings

G A Gooch not out 45  
A P Grayson c Stewart b Pearson 62  
A P Cowan b Pearson 60  
"Hussain c Butcher b D J Bicknell 11  
Extras (lb 4, lb 4, nb 18) 25  
Total (5 wkts, 41.5 overs) 134

**BOWLING:** Pollock 28-4-0-56-6, Small 26-6-72-0, Edmond 16-1-73-0, Brown 20-7-53-1, P A Smith 20-3-58-1, M K Smith 8-1-32-0

**Warwickshire:** First Innings

"A J Moles not out 35  
N M K Smith lbw b Tufnell 31  
W G Khan not out 4  
Extras (lb 4, nb 2) 5  
Total (1 wk, 22.1 overs) 76

**BOWLING:** T L Penney, D R Brown, S M Pollock, M Bunter, P Smith, M Edmond and G C Small to bat

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-60, 2-60, 3-60, 4-60, 5-60, 6-60, 7-60, 8-60, 9-60, 10-60, 11-60, 12-60, 13-60, 14-60, 15-60, 16-60, 17-60, 18-60, 19-60, 20-60, 21-60, 22-60, 23-60, 24-60, 25-60, 26-60, 27-60, 28-60, 29-60, 30-60, 31-60, 32-60, 33-60, 34-60, 35-60, 36-60, 37-60, 38-60, 39-60, 40-60, 41-60, 42-60, 43-60, 44-60, 45-60, 46-60, 47-60, 48-60, 49-60, 50-60, 51-60, 52-60, 53-60, 54-60, 55-60, 56-60, 57-60, 58-60, 59-60, 60-60, 61-60, 62-60, 63-60, 64-60, 65-60, 66-60, 67-60, 68-60, 69-60, 70-60, 71-60, 72-60, 73-60, 74-60, 75-60, 76-60, 77-60, 78-60, 79-60, 80-60, 81-60, 82-60, 83-60, 84-60, 85-60, 86-60, 87-60, 88-60, 89-60, 90-60, 91-60, 92-60, 93-60, 94-60, 95-60, 96-60, 97-60, 98-60, 99-60, 100-60, 101-60, 102-60, 103-60, 104-60, 105-60, 106-60, 107-60, 108-60, 109-60, 110-60, 111-60, 112-60, 113-60, 114-60, 115-60, 116-60, 117-60, 118-60, 119-60, 120-60, 121-60, 122-60, 123-60, 124-60, 125-60, 126-60, 127-60, 128-60, 129-60, 130-60, 131-60, 132-60, 133-60, 134-60, 135-60, 136-60, 137-60, 138-60, 139-60, 140-60, 141-60, 142-60, 143-60, 144-60, 145-60, 146-60, 147-60, 148-60, 149-60, 150-60, 151-60, 152-60, 153-60, 154-60, 155-60, 156-60, 157-60, 158-60, 159-60, 160-60, 161-60, 162-60, 163-60, 164-60, 165-60, 166-60, 167-60, 168-60, 169-60, 170-60, 171-60, 172-60, 173-60, 174-60, 175-60, 176-60, 177-60, 178-60, 179-60, 180-60, 181-60, 182-60, 183-60, 184-60, 185-60, 186-60, 187-60, 188-60, 189-60, 190-60, 191-60, 192-60, 193-60, 194-60, 195-60, 196-60, 197-60, 198-60, 199-60, 200-60, 201-60, 202-60, 203-60, 204-60, 205-60, 206-60, 207-60, 208-60, 209-60, 210-60, 211-60, 212-60, 213-60, 214-60, 215-60, 216-60, 217-60, 218-60, 219-60, 220-60, 221-60, 222-60, 223-60, 224-60, 225-60, 226-60, 227-60, 228-60, 229-60, 230-60, 231-60, 232-60, 233-60, 234-60, 235-60, 236-60, 237-60, 238-60, 239-60, 240-60, 241-60, 242-60, 243-60, 244-60, 245-60, 246-60, 247-60, 248-60, 249-60, 250-60, 251-60, 252-60, 253-60, 254-60, 255-60, 256-60, 257-60, 258-60, 259-60, 260-60, 261-60, 262-60, 263-60, 264-60, 265-60, 266-60, 267-60, 268-60, 269-60, 270-60, 271-60, 272-60, 273-60, 274-60, 275-60, 276-60, 277-60, 278-60, 279-60, 280-60, 281-60, 282-60, 283-60, 284-60, 285-60, 286-60, 287-60, 288-60, 289-60, 290-60, 291-60, 292-60, 293-60, 294-60, 295-60, 296-60, 297-60, 298-60, 299-60, 300-60, 301-60, 302-60, 303-60, 304-60, 305-60, 306-60, 307-60, 308-60, 309-60, 310-60, 311-60, 312-60, 313-60, 314-60, 315-60, 316-60, 317-60, 318-60, 319-60, 320-60, 321-60, 322-60, 323-60, 324-60, 325-60, 326-60, 327-60, 328-60, 329-60, 330-60, 331-60, 332-60, 333-60, 334-60, 335-60, 336-60, 337-60, 338-60, 339-60, 340-60, 341-60, 342-60, 343-60, 344-60, 345-60, 346-60, 347-60, 348-60, 349-60, 350-60, 351-60, 352-60, 353-60, 354-60, 355-60, 356-60, 357-60, 358-60, 359-60, 360-60, 361-60, 362-60, 363-60, 364-60, 365-60, 366-60, 367-60, 368-60, 369-60, 370-60, 371-60, 372-60, 373-60, 374-60, 375-60, 376-60, 377-60, 378-60, 379-60, 380-60, 381-60, 382-60, 383-60, 384-60, 385-60, 386-60, 387-60, 388-60, 389-60, 390-60, 391-60, 392-60, 393-60, 394-60, 395-60, 396-60, 397-60, 398-60, 399-60, 400-60, 401-60, 402-60, 403-60, 404-60, 405-60, 406-60, 407-60, 408-60, 409-60, 410-60, 411-60, 412-60, 413-60, 414-60, 415-60, 416-60, 417-60, 418-60, 419-60, 420-60, 421-60, 422-60, 423-60, 424-60, 425-60, 426-60, 427-60, 428-60, 429-60, 430-60, 431-60, 432-60, 433-60, 434-60, 435-60, 436-60, 437-60, 438-60, 439-60, 440-60, 441-60, 442-60, 443-60, 444-60, 445-60, 446-60, 447-60, 448-60, 449-60, 450-60, 451-60, 452-60, 453-60, 454-60, 455-60, 456-60, 457-60, 458-60, 459-60, 460-60, 461-60, 462-60, 463-60, 464-60, 465-60, 466-60, 467-60, 468-60, 469-60, 470-60, 471-60, 472-60, 473-60, 474-60, 475-60, 476-60, 477-60, 478-60, 479-60, 480-60, 481-60, 482-60, 483-60, 484-60, 485-60, 486-60, 487-60, 488-60, 489-60, 490-60, 491-60, 492-60, 493-60, 494-60, 495-60, 496-60, 497-60, 498-60, 499-60, 500-60, 501-60, 502-60, 503-60, 504-60, 505-60, 506-60, 507-60, 508-60, 509-60, 510-60, 511-60, 512-60, 513-60, 514-60, 515-60, 516-60, 517-60, 518-60, 519-60, 520-60, 521-60, 522-60, 523-60, 524-60, 525-60, 526-60, 527-60, 528-60, 529-60, 530-60, 531-60, 532-60, 533-60, 534-60, 535-60, 536-60, 537-60, 538-60, 539-60, 540-60, 541-60, 542-60, 543-60, 544-60, 545-60, 546-60, 547-60, 548-60, 549-60, 550-60, 551-60, 552-60, 553-60, 554-60, 555-60, 556-60, 557-60, 558-60, 559-60, 560-60, 561-60, 562-60, 563-60, 564-60, 565-60, 566-60, 567-60, 568-60, 569-60, 570-60, 571-60, 572-60, 573-60, 574-60, 575-60, 576-60, 577-60, 578-60, 579-60, 580-60, 581-60, 582-60, 583-60, 584-60, 585-60, 586-60, 587-60, 588-60, 589-60, 590-60, 591-60, 592-60, 593-60, 594-60, 595-60, 596-60, 597-60, 598-60, 599-60, 600-60, 601-60, 602-60, 603-60, 604-60, 605-60, 606-60, 607-60, 608-60, 609-60, 610-60, 611-60, 612-60, 613-60, 614-60, 615-60, 616-60, 617-60, 618-60, 619-60, 620-60, 621-



FOOTBALL: RASH OF SUSPENSIONS AND INJURIES UNLIKELY TO SHAKE GERMAN ABILITY TO CONFIRM SUPERIORITY IN EURO 96

# No romantic ending to Czechs' final chapter



Poborski: sublime chip attracted admirers

By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S chances may have gone, the level of intensive euphoria with it, but who would bet against romance in the final of Euro 96 tomorrow, between Germany, the favourites from the start, and the Czech Republic, whose tournament price began at 80-1?

There are several ways to spin a yarn about this particular cup final. It is a replay of 1976, when Czechoslovakia, then united between the Czechs and the Slovaks, beat Germany 5-3 on penalty kicks. And Germany, through their wily coach, Bert Vogts, are claiming now that suspensions and injuries have so withered their prospects that they are having outfield shirts made for their two substitute goalkeepers, Oliver Kahn and Oliver Reck.

It started as a joke when Vogts asked them which positions they might like to play, but with Stefan Reuter and Andreas Möller suspended, with four players injured,

and with only a remote hope that Jürgen Klinsmann will be fit to play even half an hour at the stadium of his dreams, perhaps the Germans are not laughing any more.

The Czechs, serious people capable of serious defensive football, are nearer to true romance. In a new nation now comprising 10.3 million people, where a playwright became President, they welcome back for this final their forward, Vladimír Šmicer, who flew home to Prague on Thursday to marry the daughter of a former Czechoslovak international and was safely tucked up in bed in the Czech's St Albans headquarters last night.

The 23-year-old Šmicer, en route to play for Lens in France after this tournament, is just one of those players who have reminded us that the Czechs have the touch of Bohemians and the toughness of being near-neighbours to Germany in their blood. At vital times in this tournament they have scored goals that came out of sheer inspiration: witness Karel Poborski, a winger-cum-forward who has caught the

eye of Liverpool and who thrilled Pelé with his sublime chip over the Portugal goalkeeper.

There is toughness and wariness and opportunism laced into this Czech side, however. Their coach, Dušan Uhrin, claims that he always expected his side to battle through to the final. "We have lost only three matches in three years, we have risen from fourth to tenth in the world rankings. Why should you doubt us?" he said. "Our



## WEMBLEY TEAMS

CZECH REPUBLIC (3-5-2): — P. Kouba (Sparta Prague) or P. Šmicer (Newcastle United) — M. Horák (Sparta Prague), M. Kadlec (Kaiserslautern), J. Suchopárek (Slavia Prague) — K. Poborski (Slavia Prague), V. Nemecek (Sparta Prague), R. Bajda (Slavia Prague), P. Berger (Borussia Dortmund), P. Nedved (Sparta Prague) — V. Šmicer (Slavia Prague), P. Kulka (Kaiserslautern).

GERMANY (probable 3-5-2): — A. Köpcke (Eintracht Frankfurt) — M. Babel (Bayern Munich), M. Sammer (Borussia Dortmund), T. Helmer (Bayern Munich), T. Häsel (Karlsruhe), T. Strunz (Bayern Munich), O. Etiler (Werder Bremen), M. Scholl (Bayern Munich), C. Ziege (Bayern Munich) — O. Bierhoff (Ludwigshafen), S. Kuntz (Borussia Dortmund), P. Palocz (Italy).

RICHARD SELLERS

## Flamboyant Berger seeks stage to cut a dash

By ALYSON RUDD

ENGLAND may be on the Czech Republic's side but it would help the country's tormented souls if, at Wembley tomorrow, a real hero, a player with flair, emerged to steal the hearts.

For the second half of the European championship semi-final between France and the Czech Republic, such a player came on to add spice to an otherwise bland encounter. Patrik Berger, a Ryan Giggs look-alike, cut a dash at Old Trafford as he teased his way through the French defence. Berger, 22, known as Pata, has Giggs's style and distinctive high kick as he approaches a dead ball.

Hugely popular among women supporters in the Czech Republic, Berger was hailed as the potential star of Euro 96. Yet he has still to complete 90 minutes of a match and John Motson described him as "a bit of an enigma".

Berger has been laid low by flu and has trained very little, but the Czech camp is hopeful that the enigma will be fit to start the final in the hope of lasting the course.

A year ago, Berger left Slavia Prague for Borussia Dortmund. He made an immediate impact but found himself on the substitutes' bench in the later stages of the season as Riedle and Möller came back from injury. There will be a point to prove when Berger faces his club-mate, Möller, tomorrow.

Yesterday, Berger confessed to having hardly slept. "I'm very nervous," he said. Yet the final could not have been further from his mind. His wife, Jarka, should have arrived with a late. She phoned him last week to tell him she was pregnant. Ask anyone about Berger and they will tell you that he likes babies. He already has a 20-month-old son. Before he married he had a poster of a big fat baby on the wall in his flat and he wants a large family.

Berger is the consummate professional and understands that good PR will assist his career. He is never late for an interview. He brought 30 CDs with him to England, one, he said, for each day of the tournament.

"He's got a very good left foot and a very good shot at goal," Nemecek, the captain, said of his team-mate.

"I've known Patrik a long time. He may surprise you but he doesn't surprise me. He is playing for the best team in Germany and that proves how good he is," Šmicer, the Newcastle United goalkeeper, said. "Being the team-mate of Sammer, he knows all about Germany. Maybe his knowledge will help us."

Šmicer's chances of playing at Wembley have improved because Kouba, the first-choice goalkeeper, has a thigh injury. Šmicer and Kouba are in a long line of excellent Czech goalkeepers. Ivo Viktor, the assistant coach, was the goalkeeper when Czechoslovakia beat Germany on penalties in 1976 to win the European championship. "He was my hero," Šmicer said.

Interestingly, Viktor puts the Czech's chances of repeating the feat at 40-60. "Our team in 1976 were a stronger team, older and more experienced. This time the team are younger. They are still good players but not as strong as we were," Viktor said yesterday.

Most of the players were putting their chances at 50-50. Nemecek said he thought that the final would be settled inside 90 minutes, but the odds point to yet another penalty shoot-out. "This year, as in 1976, the Czech ice hockey champions are world champions."

The year 1976 has the same resonance in the Republic as 1966 has in England. Twenty years ago, Antonín Panenka's cheeky, lobbed penalty sealed Germany's fate. Asked if his players had been forbidden to try such a stunt, Dušan Uhrin, the coach, said: "No, they can take them the way they want to."

Penalty practice took place today for the Czechs. In the semi-final, Uhrin said, some of the players were tired and afraid of the responsibility of taking a kick. That is something he will attempt to rectify and there could be in prospect a shoot-out involving players so proficient that, as in 1976, it takes something especially audacious for the tournament to reach a conclusion.



Berger will attempt to cast off the effects of flu and erratic form in the final tomorrow

## Vogts feels pressure of Germany calling

Peter Ball on the man charged with continuing a nation's football dynasty

There is never much doubt about the pressure on an Italian manager, as Arrigo Sacchi can confirm; nor on England managers, as Bobby Robson, Graham Taylor and now Terry Venables know. By comparison, managers of German international teams have enjoyed a relatively trouble-free existence — until Bert Vogts arrived on the scene, that is.

Vogts inherited a World Cup-winning team from Franz Beckenbauer in 1990. Tomorrow, he leads Germany into the European championship final as favourites for the second tournament in succession. Four years ago, they lost to Denmark and, with a World Cup failure in 1994 in between, the pressure is on Vogts to win his first trophy. Some of it is self-imposed.

"He is very focused in this tournament," one member of the German camp said. "because he really does not want to be remembered as a good coach who got to finals and semi-finals, but never won anything." That pressure has been reflected in his abstracted air as he walks, almost always alone, through the team hotel. "He's never a bundle of laughs, but I haven't seen him smile yet," said one observer halfway through the second week.

Always serious, with none of the easy charm of his predecessor, he commands the total respect of his players as a coach, and as someone who is not to be trifled with. Even senior administrators do not question him if he alters plans. "He says what he wants, very quietly, but if Bert says it, it's done," said a member of the German party.

As a player, Vogts was a stern defender, in his way as important a member of the great German teams of the Seventies as Beckenbauer or Müller. He has brought some of that strong purpose to his job as coach. His players know he is not to be trifled

with, the omission of Lothar Matthäus, leaving them under no illusions about that. He also wins their respect for his outstanding football knowledge and his insistence on putting the team above all else. "My star isn't Klinsmann or Sammer or Kohler," he said, in one of his first press conferences in England, "my star is the team."

It is not the least of his achievements that, with the eloquent support of Klinsmann, he has persuaded



Vogts: determined

his players to think along the same lines. "They have great team spirit, they all work for one another, and that wasn't always true of previous German teams, where there were a lot of egos involved," Tony Woodcock, the former Nottingham Forest, Arsenal and Cologne striker, now working for German television, said.

He is also passionate about the standards of German football. While many regard Germany as the best team in the competition, and their football organisation a model for England to aspire to, Vogts sees the defects. He is concerned that German football

has lost some of its traditional strengths. Yet, for such a resolute defender, he is one of the few coaches in the tournament to preach attacking football. His dealings with the press have been instructive. His distrust is seen in his eagerness to keep the German newspapers out of the camp on match days so that the players will not be affected by reading something critical.

Off the training field, he is not a natural communicator. During this tournament he has not granted any interviews, and he clearly does not enjoy press conferences. However, he attends regularly, answers helpfully and, as the tournament progressed, has looked increasingly comfortable in handling them.

That may be a metaphor for his feelings about the tournament as a whole. He is not an anglophobe, but he perhaps feels the same about England as many English people feel about Germany, respect tinged with suspicion. He felt that England being based at Wembley was a deliberate loading of the dice in their favour, and the state of the Macclesfield Town training pitch allocated to his team also raised his suspicions that Germany were being got at. As the tournament has gone on, though, he has relaxed, and his praise after the semi-final was generous.

He also loves Wembley. "He can tell you every kick of every game he has had at Wembley," a friend said. While sympathy for the underdog means that most home supporters will want the Czech Republic to win tomorrow, if Germany win, Vogts will look back on this tournament as the one in which he ended his search for success. It couldn't happen to a more honourable man.

## Count corner concessions to reward attacking play

By DAVID MILLER

FAMOUS cricket matches have been decided by extras, runs conceded by the fielding team, rather than by which side hit the highest score with the bat. Why should there not be "extras" in football, in order to dispense with penalty shoot-outs in matches that end in a draw?

The extras I have in mind are corner kicks conceded within the goal area. If one side has had two or three shots turned over the bar or round the posts by the goalkeeper and the

other has hardly ventured across the halfway line, surely the former is entitled to be considered victors if the match ends without a decisive score.

Such a regulation would be in the hands of the referee. He would have a third card, say green, with which to signal and record the corner. There would be marginal decisions, when the defender's conceding tackle was either inside or outside the goal area.

The immediate objection will be that attackers would deliberately kick the ball off defending opponents' legs. Such gamesmanship would

come within the discretionary judgment of the referee, just like a foul, when deciding whether to show the green card. It would not be difficult to distinguish between the genuine and the fake corner. No sensible attacker is going to squander the chance of a goal for the sake of a cop-out corner.

The virtues of the system are several. First, corner kicks compared with a penalty shoot-out are part of the match that has been played, a legitimate reflection of the dominance or risks encountered by either team, and not an irrelevant lottery.

Secondly, the system places an added responsibility, and pressure, upon goalkeepers and defenders. No longer will a goalkeeper casually flip a high ball over the bar, confident that he and his colleagues will then deal with the corner kick. He would have to decide whether to attempt to catch the ball and perhaps miss, or to play safe and accept the possible, aggregate corner count.

Thirdly, full backs and central defenders must choose between heading a centre behind, and heading into the field of play; another

hazard that may lead to real goals in genuine play time.

Fourthly, attackers will be encouraged to shoot more frequently. Testing and extending the goalkeeper would become an option perhaps more favourable than looking for a well placed colleague.

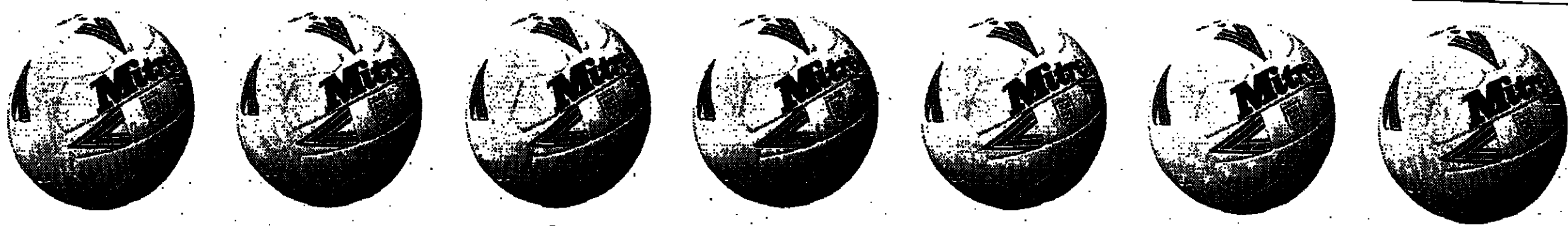
I am not suggesting this system is ideal. The referee's green card, however, would add to spectator excitement and would give reward to positive, attacking play.

Letters, page 23

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FOOTBALL: EARLIER VICTORY SHOULD NOT MAKE GERMANY COMPLACENT

# Poborski holds all Czech cards

WE KNOW that Germany have already beaten the Czech Republic once in this tournament and the temptation is to think that they will do it again at Wembley tomorrow. I don't believe, though, that it will be quite that straightforward.

The Czechs have developed and got better since that first game. They were probably a bit nervous then, starting off against the team everyone said was going to be the best in the competition, and they did not do themselves justice. But they still qualified from the most difficult group.

They won their semi-final without their four best players and they will be fit and rested now and raring to go. They really have nothing to lose. The Germans will be under a lot of pressure, especially Bert Vogts, their manager, and they will not have it all their own way.

I saw the Czechs play Portu-

gal in the quarter-finals and before the game, I thought Portugal would win. However, the Czech Republic put them off their game in the second half and the Portuguese cracked. I realised then they were much better than anyone had given them credit for.

Poborski scored the goal that won the game that day and, from what I have seen of him, he is a little jewel. He has the ability to unlock defences, he can dribble and weave and sway. If he gets a chance, he is the sort of player who will tick it away.

Kubik caught my eye in attack, too. I know the Portuguese centre backs well and they are hard players, but he resisted all they threw at him. He made intelligent lay-offs all the time, he spun off people and he took up lots of different positions which made him difficult to tie down. The team

**BOBBY ROBSON**



as a whole has a very flexible style.

Despite all that, I would still make the Germans favourites because of their reputation, their history, their credibility. As we saw against England, they have this knack of not losing games where they have not quite been the best team. There were long periods in the

semi-final where England could not get a shot on goal and even in the group game against Italy, when the Germans were down to ten men, they found the same thing. Germany never seem to get slack.

The crucial thing, as far as I am concerned, is who they will play in attack. If Klinsmann plays he is likely to be less than fully fit so it will be absolutely vital that, if he is shackled, his striking partner can get the job done. So far I have not seen that happen.

Klinsmann played brilliantly when he got a couple against Russia but I was not impressed with Bohic at all in any of the games. About the only thing I noticed in his performances was that he was wearing red boots in one of the games. He is injured now but who they play up front could decide the game.

I think Scholl should be the

man. He was one of the players who did himself no harm against England. He was taken off in the second half but that may have been because he was short of match-fitness. He looked very lively early on and he could have a big part to play tomorrow. The Germans will miss Müller, of course, because he is a fantastic player but he acted like a spoilt child to earn himself his second hooking, against England.

The Germans are too professional to think they have done the hard work by beating England and my guess would be that they will be just too strong for the Czechs. As a manager, I would be pleased for Bert Vogts if they won. All his predecessors have won major tournaments and he is under tremendous pressure to emulate them. He will probably never have a better chance than this.



Scholl could partner Klinsmann in Germany attack

**FINAL IN STATISTICS**

Germany (including games as West Germany) and the Czech Republic (formerly Czechoslovakia) have played each other 18 times, Germany winning 11, the Czechs three, with four draws. In those matches Germany have scored 38 goals, the Czechs 24.

□ Their last meeting was three weeks ago at Old Trafford, when Germany won their Euro 96 Group C match 2-0 with first-half goals from Müller and Ziege.

□ It was a match the Germans dominated, making 11 goal attempts (six on target) to the Czechs six (four). In a game of 41 fouls, six Germans and four Czechs were booked.

□ The final is a repeat of the 1976 European championship final in Prague, where the teams drew 2-2 after extra time. Czechoslovakia won 5-3 on penalties. It was the last time the Germans were beaten in a penalty shoot-out — since then they have won four shoot-outs, including that against England at Wembley on Wednesday. Of 19 penalties taken during that sequence, they have missed only one.

□ The Czechs' biggest win in fixtures against Germany was a 3-1 World Cup semi-final success in Rome in 1934. The Germans won 5-1 in 1935 in a World Cup quarter in Prague.

□ The Germans hold the edge in state power in Euro 96. They have scored eight goals and made 50 attempts (21 on target). The Czechs have scored six from 47 attempts on goal, 21 on target.

□ Both teams have had a turbulent tournament, in disciplinary terms. The Germans have suffered one sending-off and 12 cautions. They have conceded 100 free kicks. The Czechs have also had one dismissal and 17 yellow cards. They have conceded 88 free kicks.

## EURO 96 DAILY TEAM-BY-TEAM GUIDE

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

Curiously, the most excitable media representatives at the Czech Republic's "Meet the Players" session yesterday were Dutch. They besieged Pavel Nedved, the Sparta Prague midfielder player. When exactly, they asked him, will he arrive in Holland?

Nedved signed a pre-contractual agreement with PSV Eindhoven before the tournament. But other clubs have liked what they have seen and have also made offers, the most public of which has come from Lazio. Wangling behind the scenes has delayed Nedved's full transfer and the Dutch journalists were concerned that Nedved might now regret his pre-nuptial agreement. Nedved said he had had no second thoughts and thought PSV was a great club. PSV are worried, though, and have contacted UEFA to demand that Nedved must go to Holland.

Wolverhampton Wanderers, meanwhile, are interested in Petr Kouba, the goalkeeper who has been impressive enough to keep Pavel Smisek out of the national team.

After flying to Prague to get married yesterday, Smisek returns to the camp today and is ready to play tomorrow. His head wound has healed well and Dusan Uhrin, the coach, says he is counting on him, having made a promise to the player that his wedding on Friday would not affect his chance of playing in the final.

**CAUTIONS:** Nedved (3), Kuka (2), Belji (2), Suchoparek (2), Kadlec (2), Nemecek, Smisek, Nemecek, Kubik, Latal  
**DISMISSAL:** Latal

**FINAL**

Czech Republic v Germany  
Tomorrow  
Wembley, 7.0  
BBC1 and ITV

**GERMANY**

Usual German efficiency bit the dust in a big way at the squad's penultimate press conference, before the Euro 96 final, at The Landmark Hotel in Maylebone yesterday. A 45-minute training session, for the few players fit enough to be put through their paces, and an unintentionally elongated sightseeing tour, courtesy of the London traffic, meant that the start of proceedings was delayed more than half an hour. Bert Vogts, the German coach, eventually arrived 80 minutes late, amid a flurry of profuse apologies, but he need not have worried.

In his absence, Stefan Kuntz, the Besiktas forward, and Christian Ziege, the Bayern Munich midfielder player, held court and proved admirable stand-ins. They answered a multitude of questions, accompanied by prompt and precise translations from Thomas Schnelker, the team interpreter, and kept a large and inquisitive press pack at bay until shortly before Vogts's appearance. Again, it was German resilience at its best.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl will be present at Wembley tomorrow and, come Monday, Germany have already organised alternatives for their return home. If crowned champions, they will fly to Frankfurt and attend a reception; if only runners-up, they will disperse swiftly. "We have nothing planned for that outcome," Schnelker said. "We will just say our goodbyes at the airport."

**CAUTIONS:** Babel (2), Reuter (2), Müller (2), Hässler, Kuntz, Ziege, Bierhoff, Sammer, Klinsmann  
**DISMISSAL:** Strunz

REPORTS: Alyson Rudd and Russell Kempson

### HOW THE SEMI-FINALS FINISHED

Germany 1 England 1 (aet; Germany win 5-5 on penalties) Shearer (3) Kuntz (16) (Wembley, attendance 75,862)	France 0 Czech Republic 0 (aet; Czech Republic win 6-5 on penalties) (Old Trafford, attendance 43,877)
--	--

### HOW THE QUARTER-FINALS FINISHED

England 0 Spain 0 (aet; England win 4-2 on penalties) (Wembley, att 75,440)	Germany 2 Croatia 1 Klinsmann (21 pen) Sammer (58) Suker (51) (Old Trafford, att 43,412)	France 0 Holland 0 (aet; France win 5-4 on penalties) (Anfield, att 37,465)	Portugal 0 Czech Republic 1 Poborski (53) (Villa Park, att 26,832)
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### HOW THE GROUPS FINISHED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Holland	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Scotland	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
Switzerland	3	0	1	2	1	1	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Spain	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Bulgaria	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Romania	3	0	0	3	1	4	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	3	2	1	0	5	0	7
Czech Rep	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
Italy	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Russia	3	0	1	2	4	8	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Croatia	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Denmark	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Turkey	3	0	0	3	0	5	0

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
England 1 Switzerland 1 Shearer (23) Turkylmaz (83 pen) (Wembley, attendance 76,567) Holland 0 Scotland 0 (Villa Park, attendance 34,363) Switzerland 0 Holland 2 Cruyff (85) Bergkamp (78) (Villa Park, attendance 36,800) England 2 Scotland 0 Shearer (53) Gascoigne (79) (Wembley, attendance 76,864) Scotland 1 Switzerland 0 McColst (37) (Villa Park, attendance 39,000) England 4 Holland 1 Shearer (23 pen, 57) Sheringham (51, 62) Kluivert (78) (Wembley, attendance 76,798)	Spain 1 Bulgaria 1 Alfonso (73) Stoichkov (65 pen) (Eland Road, attendance 26,006) Romania 0 France 1 Dugary (24) (St James' Park, attendance 26,323) Bulgaria 1 Romania 0 Stoichkov (3) (St James' Park, attendance 19,107) France 1 Spain 1 Djoresic (48) Camarero (85) (Eland Road, attendance 35,626) France 3 Bulgaria 1 Blanc (20) Penet (63og) Loko (90) Stoichkov (68) (St James' Park, attendance 26,976) Romania 1 Spain 2 Raduciu (29) Manjari (11) Amor (83) (Eland Road, attendance 32,719)	Germany 2 Czech Republic 0 Ziege (25) Müller (31) (Old Trafford, attendance 37,300) Italy 2 Russia 1 Casiraghi (5, 52) Tymbalar (20) (Anfield, attendance 35,120) Czech Republic 2 Italy 1 Nedved (4) Belji (35) Chiesa (18) (Anfield, attendance 37,320) Russia 0 Germany 3 Sammer (58) Klinsmann (77, 90) (Old Trafford, attendance 50,760) Italy 0 Germany 0 (Old Trafford, attendance 53,740) Russia 3 Czech Republic 3 Mostovoi (48) Tetrads (54) Beschastnykh (85) Suchoparek (8) Kuka (19) Smisek (89) (Anfield, attendance 21,128)	Denmark 1 Portugal 1 B Laudrup (21) Sa Pinto (52) (Hillsborough, attendance 34,993) Turkey 0 Croatia 1 Vlasic (85) (City Ground, attendance 22,460) Portugal 1 Turkey 0 Coats (80) (City Ground, attendance 22,870) Croatia 3 Denmark 0 Suker (53 pen, 90) Boban (81) (Hillsborough, attendance 33,674) Croatia 0 Portugal 3 Figo (4) Joao Pinto (33) Domingos (83) (City Ground, attendance 20,484) Turkey 0 Denmark 3 B Laudrup (50, 84) Nielsen (70) (Hillsborough, attendance 28,951)

PREVIOUS WINNERS	RUNNERS UP	LATEST BETTING	LEADING SCORERS
1960 USSR 1964 Spain 1968 Italy 1972 West Germany 1976 Czechoslovakia 1980 West Germany 1984 France 1988 Holland 1992 Denmark	1960 Yugoslavia 1964 USSR 1968 Yugoslavia 1972 USSR 1976 West Germany 1980 Belgium 1984 Spain 1988 USSR 1992 Germany	<b>OUTRIGHT</b> 1-3: Germany 11-5: Czech Republic <b>90 MINUTES' PLAY</b> 4-8: Germany 15-8: Draw 8-2: Czech Republic 1-1: Czech Republic	S: A Shearer (England) 3: J Klinsmann (Germany) B Laudrup (Denmark) H Stoichkov (Bulgaria) D Suker (Croatia) 2: P Casiraghi (Italy) M Sammer (Germany) E Sheringham (England)

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ce Sequence  
n return to  
ning rhythm

## Derby keeps Saturday slot

THE Vodafone Derby next year will be run on Saturday June 7. The Epsom executive yesterday announced that it had voted in favour of continuing with the classic as a weekend fixture.

There has been a campaign to return the Derby to its traditional Wednesday slot, which Epsom abandoned in an attempt to reverse falling attendances after the 1994

race. But the Racecourse Holdings Trust (RHT) and United Racecourses are keeping to their original decision. They have the support of sponsors Vodafone, the British Horseracing Board and the Jockey Club.

The RHT chairman, Christopher Spencer, said yesterday: "A number of factors influenced our decision, the most important being our belief

that the Vodafone Derby, a national event and one of the eight sporting events listed by Parliament, should be held on a day that can attract the largest potential audience, whether at Epsom or on TV.

"We do not at this stage need to commit to a date beyond 1997, but our intentions are to continue to build on the progress we have made with the Saturday fixture."

### DONCASTER

THUNDERER  
6.45 Alby, 7.15 Lough Erne, 7.45 Top Of The Form, 8.15 Three Hills, 8.45 Ballynakelly, 9.15 It's Academic.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM  
DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

#### 6.45 EBF LONSDALE MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O FILLIES: £3,644.71) (7 runners)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
7-10 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 7.15 GO RACING IN YORKSHIRE MAIDEN HURDLE (€3,470.00) (14)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
7-10 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 7.45 WESTSIDE MAGAZINE 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,322.50) (6)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 8.15 YORKSHIRE-TYNE TEES MAIDEN STAKES (€4,013.1m 21 60yd) (10)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 8.45 COLIN GODDARD MEMORIAL HANDICAP (€3,850.1m 61 132yd) (10)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 9.15 STOCKOL FILLES HANDICAP (€3,904.70) (13)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: H. Cecil, 21 winners from 83 runners, 25.3%  
J. Gordon, 20 winners from 200 runners, 10.0%  
J. Gordon, 19 winners from 116 runners, 16.4%  
J. Gordon, 18 winners from 139 runners, 12.9%  
J. Gordon, 17 winners from 134 runners, 12.7%  
J. Gordon, 16 winners from 134 runners, 11.9%  
J. Gordon, 15 winners from 134 runners, 11.2%  
J. Gordon, 14 winners from 134 runners, 10.4%

## DONCASTER TOMORROW

THUNDERER  
2.00 Rassyell, 2.30 Shadow Jury, 3.00 Carifto Brigrante, 3.35 UP IN FLAMES (map), 4.15 Cornadini, 4.50 Sincure, 5.20 Jarah.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.00 Arcid.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM  
DRAW: 5F-1M STR, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

#### 2.00 JOBS GALORE 1996 EURO-AMERICAN CHALLENGE HANDICAP (€3,613.1m 61 132yd) (10 runners)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 2.30 GREAT YORKSHIRE GOLD HANDICAP (€5,344.50) (11)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 2.50 HOME OF SUNDAY RACING HANDICAP (€3,321.1m 21 60yd) (9)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 3.00 HOME OF SUNDAY RACING HANDICAP (€3,321.1m 21 60yd) (9)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

### LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER  
6.30 Admiral's Secret, 7.00 Chakalak, 7.30 Barrio King, 8.00 Bowcliffe Grande, 8.30 Cebwob, 9.00 Double Bluff.

GOING: FIRM (TURF COURSE), STANDARD (ALL-WEATHER)  
DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

#### 6.30 SAFFRON APPRENTICE HANDICAP (€2,470.1m 31 106yd) (6 runners)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 7.00 LYDSELL SELLING HANDICAP (€2,427.1m 50) (12)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 7.30 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND CRAWLEY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,322.50) (8)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 8.00 WIMPEY HOMES HANDICAP (€2,905.50) (7)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 8.30 DAILY STAR CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,881.70) (12)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 9.00 STIRLING COOKE INTERNATIONAL MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,788.1m) (8)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: H. Cecil, 21 winners from 83 runners, 25.3%  
J. Gordon, 20 winners from 200 runners, 10.0%  
J. Gordon, 19 winners from 116 runners, 16.4%  
J. Gordon, 18 winners from 139 runners, 12.9%  
J. Gordon, 17 winners from 134 runners, 12.7%  
J. Gordon, 16 winners from 134 runners, 11.9%  
J. Gordon, 15 winners from 134 runners, 11.2%  
J. Gordon, 14 winners from 134 runners, 10.4%

## CHEPSTOW TOMORROW

THUNDERER  
2.15 Reagansque, 2.45 Mount Row, 3.15 Scarlet Lake, 3.45 Tony's Mist, 4.00 Sharp Shuttle, 5.05 Lonely Leader, 5.35 Joffo.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.45 Mount Row, 5.05 NEW SPAIN (map).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM  
DRAW: 6F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

#### 2.15 DAY OUT HANDICAP (€3,207.1m 41 230yd) (10 runners)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 2.45 FAMILY HANDICAP (€5,540.1m 21 360yd) (9)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 2.50 DONCASTER SUPER SUNDAY CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O: £5,012.1m) (4)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 3.15 SUNDAY MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,993.50) (8)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: H. Cecil, 21 winners from 83 runners, 25.3%  
J. Gordon, 20 winners from 200 runners, 10.0%  
J. Gordon, 19 winners from 116 runners, 16.4%  
J. Gordon, 18 winners from 139 runners, 12.9%  
J. Gordon, 17 winners from 134 runners, 12.7%  
J. Gordon, 16 winners from 134 runners, 11.9%  
J. Gordon, 15 winners from 134 runners, 11.2%  
J. Gordon, 14 winners from 134 runners, 10.4%

## BATH

THUNDERER  
2.15 Kaiser Kache, 2.50 Solum, 3.20 Master Mink, 3.50 Contronier, 4.30 Indian Jockey, 5.00 Warning Reef.

GOING: FIRM  
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

#### 2.15 WESTON MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,993.50) (10 runners)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 2.50 STAYERS SELLING HANDICAP (€2,810.2m 11 340yd) (15)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 3.20 LITTLE SOMERFORD LIMITED STAKES (€2,915.50) (6)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 3.50 FERRY MAIDEN HURDLE (€2,339.2m 41) (13)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 3.35 M JOAN SWIFT HANDICAP CHASE (€4,500.2m 71) (13)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 3.55 FERRY MAIDEN HURDLE (€2,339.2m 41) (13)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 3.35 M JOAN SWIFT HANDICAP CHASE (€4,500.2m 71) (13)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: H. Cecil, 21 winners from 83 runners, 25.3%  
J. Gordon, 20 winners from 200 runners, 10.0%  
J. Gordon, 19 winners from 116 runners, 16.4%  
J. Gordon, 18 winners from 139 runners, 12.9%  
J. Gordon, 17 winners from 134 runners, 12.7%  
J. Gordon, 16 winners from 134 runners, 11.9%  
J. Gordon, 15 winners from 134 runners, 11.2%  
J. Gordon, 14 winners from 134 runners, 10.4%

## 3.55 ROTHAMPS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP (€5,830.1m 50yd) (8)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 4.30 CLAVERTON CLAIMING HANDICAP (€3,187.1m 41) (14)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 5.00 ST JOHN AUBURN MAIDEN STAKES (€3,781.1m 31 140yd) (6)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: H. Cecil, 21 winners from 83 runners, 25.3%  
J. Gordon, 20 winners from 200 runners, 10.0%  
J. Gordon, 19 winners from 116 runners, 16.4%  
J. Gordon, 18 winners from 139 runners, 12.9%  
J. Gordon, 17 winners from 134 runners, 12.7%  
J. Gordon, 16 winners from 134 runners, 11.9%  
J. Gordon, 15 winners from 134 runners, 11.2%  
J. Gordon, 14 winners from 134 runners, 10.4%

#### 4.10 MALVERN BLINDS HANDICAP HURDLE (€3,761.2m) (11)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 4.45 BESFORD NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (€3,335.2m) (14)

1-4 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
2-5 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
3-6 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
4-7 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
5-8 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12  
6-9 JAMIE LANE (5) 11.50 (J) M Page 4-12-12

#### 5.15 LUSLEY STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLYCE (€1,322.2m) (19)



TENNIS: PREDICTABLE VICTORY IN THIRD ROUND OFFERS AMERICAN CHANCE TO ADVANCE STATIC CAREER

# Break point approaches for Fernandez

Simon Barnes looks at how one of life's quarter-finalists can buck the trend

IN THE great and continuing debate about evolution, there are two schools of thought. One party says that life and species exist in a constant state of flux, the other that long periods of monotony are followed by short, violent episodes of change.

Perhaps the arguments are illustrated by tennis: the men's game on the one side, the women's on the other. You never quite know where you are with the men's game, especially on grass. Agassi went on the first day and then, of all the crazy things, a Briton beat Kafelnikov. The third and the fifth seeds gone. A constant state of flux.

Years ago Becker appeared from nowhere and won in his first year, now Henman comes in as if to fulfil some ancient British dream. With the men's game, you never know quite where you are.

The women's game represents the opposite school, one known to the tradesman of evolution as *punctuated equilibrium*. To sum up, everything always stays exactly the same apart from on those rare occasions when it doesn't.

All of which brings me to Mary Joe Fernandez. She, perhaps more than any other player on the men's circuit, represents what evolutionists term *stasis*.

Fernandez was on No 1 Court yesterday, beating — well, obviously, she always does — some lesser-ranked player. To be more pedantic, she beat Florencia Labat, of Argentina, 6-2, 6-0 in the third round, comfortably inside the hour and fractionally before the second rain break of the day.

Fernandez, 25, has been on the circuit for 11 years. Burn-out? Forget it, she loves it. She has found a nice niche: she is one of life's quarter-finalists. Her grand-slam record includes six, with a couple of semis and two (losing) finals thrown in. She never seems to get any worse and she never seems to get any better. Always there, always a fraction short of the highest class.

She is caught forever between *Prufrock* and *Hamlet*, neither celebrity nor nonentity, neither winner nor hapless loser. Here is a career that shows ability, resolve and sheer love of the life. Of strife, of competition, of moving on to the next bunch of battles.

But always just that tiny but crucial bit below the very best. You begin to think that it was not men that invented the glass ceiling but women. Certainly, there has been no impetus from Fernandez to soar above a certain level. Has she always been ranked No 8?

Well, near enough, though she has been as high as fourth; she is seeded ninth here and, should the sun rise in the west this morning, I will certainly put a couple of quid on her to win it this time round. She is lithe and athletic and has a pleasing sense of touch; she can play the occasional shot as if her racket were strung with a cobweb. She took the trouble to complete her schooling when she was on the tennis circuit, which shows a facility, rare in tennis, to admit the existence of an outside world.

She consistently beats players ranked below her: consistently loses to those ranked higher. She can therefore be said to be the most character-



The resolve that Fernandez has shown throughout an 11-year career is evident in her expression during a straight-sets win against Labat yesterday

istic player on the entire women's circuit.

Now it is tempting to move on from here into the exciting but heavily mined area of sexual politics; forgive me if I teeter on the edge of danger-

ous generalisations and keep to the specific.

So I will not discuss such important matters as to whether women can tell jokes, talk football, sup ale, play sport. Let us simply agree that

women's tennis is based on a different dynamic to the men's. Still, the defeat of Monica Seles by Katerina Stutenikova begs a question: is this one of those rare moments of violent change I

wrote about in the first paragraph? Fernandez could meet Stutenikova in the quarter-finals. That will test the possibility to perfection. And perhaps that is what players such as Fernandez are for.

As Fernandez eased through yesterday, Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, the No 4 seed, overcame a wrist injury to reach the fourth round with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Naoko Sawamatsu, of Japan.

## Stutenikova extends new-found celebrity as Flach falls to earth

Alix Ramsay reports on the contrasting fortunes of two former giantkillers

IT IS one thing to be known as the bloke who beat Andre Agassi; it is quite another to be known as the bloke who beat the bloke who beat Andre Agassi. The former gets the headlines, the attention and the accolades, the latter goes unnoticed. Yesterday, Doug Flach's moment in the spotlight came to an abrupt end when he was dispatched 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 by Thomas Johansson in the third round of the All England Championships at Wimbledon.

On Tuesday, in the first round, Flach had gone for the Agassi jugular. He may have been a qualifier, he may have been ranked a lowly No 281 in the world, but, when Agassi faltered, his American compatriot pounced. It was the highlight of his career, he said. "I'm as excited as you can possibly get." By yesterday, his pouncing days were over. He won his first game in the first set and then lost the next seven in a row.

In trouble in the second set, he thought he had a chance to break back for 4-4, but the Johansson service he was convinced had been a double fault was never called. He thought about it for a while, talked to the umpire about it and then gave in. It was not Flach's day.

On Tuesday, he could do almost nothing wrong; yesterday, everything was conspiring against him. He could not



Stutenikova: nervous



Flach: out in straight sets

even lose in peace. At two match points down, the match was stopped by rain and he had to wait another 45 minutes before he could drop his service and leave town. His new-found reputation and the small matter of a muscular Swede, had done for him.

It was a problem of which Katarina Stutenikova was wary. Her victory over Monica Seles in the second round on Wednesday had catapulted her into the spotlight, too, but she coped with the extra attention a little better. Yesterday, she made her way into

the fourth round with a nervous 6-3, 6-2 win over Dominique Van Roost.

On a cold and windy day, she had stumbled for much of the first set — it was only in the seventh game that anyone looked likely to hold service — and only got to grips with the very average match in the second set. It had been difficult, Stutenikova thought, to play after the events of Wednesday, but she had tried not to let the pressure get to her.

"If you beat Seles everybody expects you are going to win the next one, so, in the beginning, I was a little bit nervous," she said. "But I couldn't be so excited about beating Seles after the match. I was very happy that I won but I had to concentrate on the next match. I did watch it again on TV with my boyfriend; we talked a little bit about it and then it was gone."

Stutenikova is good at taking things in her stride. Last year she had surgery on her shoulder and only at the start of this year was she able to get to work on her service. Her second service still looks as if she bought it in Woolworths, but everything is there to be improved, especially when you are playing on grass for the first time. "I just play my game, I play aggressive, I play backhand slice and I take it point by point. But I am happier with grass now."

The lady from Slovakia who lists her favourite book as *If Tomorrow Comes* knows that her tomorrows are looking rather promising. She is not scheduled to meet another seeded player until the quarter-finals and, with Seles's scalp already in her bag — alongside her stuffed tiger, which she carries as a mascot — she believes any reputation is there for the taking.

"After Seles, I believe I can win," she said. "I can beat anybody." No one remembered to ask Johansson what he thought.

SOME of the oddest couples make for the best marriages. Fanny Craddock and Johnny Margaret Thatcher and Dennis; they made it work. One dominant partner provides the ego and ambition while the other is prepared to do the dishes. Once that division of responsibility has been established, it is all plain sailing.

Doubles is no different. Years ago, John McEnroe, so fiery in singles, formed one of the most successful partnerships with Peter Fleming. Together they won titles by the handful, but when the going got tough it was McEnroe who undertook the role of diplomat while Fleming seethed. Maybe, standing eye-ball to elbow with his taller partner, not even McEnroe was going to argue.

These days the top men tend to avoid doubles at the big events, fearing five sets late in the evening could leave their chances in the singles the next day. But the women are more prepared to give it a go, with some surprising partnerships, and if does not work, they can always blame their other half.

One of the most interesting couples in the mixed doubles this year is Steffi Graf and Heinz Guenthardt. Employer and employee playing together.

## Perfect partnerships not always made in heaven

By ALIX RAMSAY

er. Guenthardt has been Graf's coach through the good times and the bad and he is not so much a technical advisor as a friend and support away from the courts. But Graf, a lady not known for her patience, is still the boss.

She has allowed Guenthardt some time off this year to pursue his television career, but when he is needed she jerks the leash and he is back at her side. The last time they were seen in harness at Wimbledon was four years ago and they lost in the first round. Never fond of losing, Graf has not tried the experiment again until now. Presumably, the boss thinks Guenthardt has improved sufficiently to give him another chance.

Wondering who wears the trousers in such relationships is a common topic of conversation. Martina Navratilova is back at Wimbledon looking for her twentieth title to equal Billie Jean King's record. Last year she won the mixed doubles with Jonathan Stark, a scratch pairing, after McEnroe had stood her up.

She and Stark met five minutes before they signed in and the novelty never wore off. This year they have expectations and are seeded fifth. Navratilova's expectations are higher than most, which should make for a tense week.

Monica Seles's exit from the singles was the talk of Wimbledon. Her exit from the doubles went unheralded. Late on Thursday night she and Betsy Nagelsen went out to Pam Shriver and Ros Nideffer in three sets.

The fact she was playing doubles at all was surprising. But business is business and Nagelsen is also Mrs Mark McCormack and Mark McCormack owns the International Management Group who coincidentally happen to be Seles's agents. The oddest couples, the strangest marriages.

Navratilova: title hunt



Navratilova: title hunt

## Appelmans makes her point with powerful performance

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SABINE APPELMANS, from Belgium, outgunned the fastest server in women's tennis, Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, to gain a surprise 7-5, 3-6, 12-10 victory in the third round at Wimbledon yesterday.

The Dutchwoman, seeded eleventh, reached the quarter-finals last year and had been hopeful of going further but Appelmans returned serve well and lost fewer points on her own service as the match progressed towards its thrilling finale.

In the final set, play was held up by rain for more than half an hour but when they resumed the Belgian left-hander, 3-2 ahead, began to look more likely to win.

Schultz-McCarthy saved three match points when 6-7 down, leaving Appelmans banging her rack-

et into the ground in frustration. The Belgian refused to be discouraged, however, and held her serve in comparative comfort to go 11-10 up. She reached match-point for the fourth time on her rival's serve in the next game.

Schultz-McCarthy saved it with a service winner but Appelmans then had a fifth match point and a devastating backhand down the line gave her victory.

□ Mose Navarra, an Italian qualifier ranked No 345 in the world, reached the third round yesterday in his first grand slam. Victories over Alberto Costa and David Rinkl have brought Navarra, half Sicilian and half Polish, a meeting with the Australian, Jason Stoltenberg, next for a chance to reach the final 16.

□ Britain's Claire Taylor was furious with what she termed Mary Pierce's arrogant behavior during their second-round match at Wimbledon on Thursday.

Pierce, the thirteenth seed, who lives in Florida but plays for France, was shunted to an outside court Thursday to play Taylor, the world No 340 and the last remaining British woman in the tournament. Pierce won the match 6-4, 6-2, but lost her opponent's respect.

"She was acting like the queen of the court... but she's not, Martina Navratilova is," Taylor said. "She kept me waiting at the start of the match for eight minutes before turning up. She clearly thought she was superior to me and everyone else on the court."

### RESULTS FROM THE ALL ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### Men's singles

Winner: £392,500

Runner-up: £196,250

Holder: P Sampras (US)

Second round

M Stich (Ger) bt S Matsuo (Japan) 7-6, 6-4, 6-1

M Rosset (Switz) bt A Oshovskiy (Russ) 6-3, 7-6, 6-4

M Tilmann (Swe) bt S Ederberg (Swe) 4-6, 6-4, 7-6, 6-4

Third round

T Herrman (GB) leads L Miligan (GB) 6-1, 6-3, 5-4

T Johansson (Swe) bt D Flach (US) 6-1, 6-4, 6-3

M Washington (US) bt B Ullrich (Cz) 6-3, 6-3, 6-0

N Godwin (SA) bt B Becker (Ger) 6-6, 6-2

Women's singles

Winner: £353,000

Runner-up: £176,500

Holder: S Graf (Ger)

Third round

J Wiesner (Austria) bt G Fernandez (US) 6-2, 7-5

A Frazier (US) bt I Gorrochategui (Arg) 6-0, 6-3

#### Women's doubles

Winners: £139,040

Runners-up: £69,300

Holders: J Novotna (Cz) and A Sanchez Vicario (Sp)

First round

R Nideffer (SA) and P Shriver (US) bt B Nagelsen and M Seles (US) 4-6, 6-4, 5-7

Second round

N J Arendt (US) and M M Bollegraf (Hol) bt A Carleson (Swe) and A Tennesen (Hun) 6-1, 6-2

N Bradtke and R McQuillan (Aus) bt J M Hetherington (Can) and K S Rinaldi Shukel (US) 6-3, 6-1

M Hingis (Switz) and H Sukova (Cz) bt T Krizan (Slovenia) and C Papadakis (Gr) 6-4, 6-3

K Boogert (Hol) and I Spirlea (Rom) bt J Demongel and C Dhrin (Fr) 6-4, 6-2

Y Basuki (Indo) and C Mvis (Hol) bt J Lurova (Russ) and T Tanasugarn (Thai) 7-6, 6-7, 6-4

Men's doubles

Winners: £160,810

Runners-up: £80,400

Holders: T A Woodbridge and M Woodforde (Aus)

First round

M Philippoussis and P Rafter (Aus) bt J Baloth (US) and L Pass (Ind) 6-2, 7-5, 6-2

T A Woodbridge and M Woodforde (Aus) bt M Kell (US) and M Larsson (Swe) 6-3, 6-3, 6-2

Women's doubles

Winners: £68,280

Runners-up: £34,140

Holders: J Stark and M Navratilova (US)

First round

P Cash (Aus) and M Pierce (Fr) bt L Pimek (Bel) and K Adams (US) 6-4, 6-3

S Draper and E Smylie (Aus) bt L Pass (Indo) and K Nagatsuka (Japan) 6-4, 6-4

S Davis (US) and P Tarabini (Arg) bt G van Emburgh (US) and I Spilten (Rom) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3

C Suk and H Sukova (Cz) bt F Moriana (US) and L Fleming (Aus) 6-3, 6-2

M Lucena and M McGrath (US) bt B Talbot (SA) and C Vis (Hol) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4

J Grabb and L Wild (US) bt M Huring (Ger) and D Graham (US) 7-5, 7-6

M Oosting (Hol) and E Callens (Bel) bt L Rake (SA) and Y Bosauki (Indo) 6-4, 6-4

J Jensen and N Arendt (US) bt P Kilday (Aus) and A Sugiyama (Japan) 6-4, 7-6

B MacPhee and T Whittinger-Jones (US) bt S Cannon (US) and P Hy-Boulais (Can) 7-6, 6-1

R Bergh (Swe) and K Po (US) bt J M Knowles (Bah) and J L Raymond (US) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3

### EQUESTRIANISM

## Germany underline credentials for Atlanta

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN AACHEN, GERMANY

THE German showjumping team confirmed their status as favourites for the Olympic showjumping contest in Atlanta with a convincing win in the Nations Cup here yesterday.

In a display of relentless accuracy, their four Olympic riders, led by the popular world champion, Franke Sloothaak, on San Patrignano Joli, lowered only one pole over the two rounds to give the team their first home victory since 1992. Switzerland, helped by a double clear round from the former British rider, Lesley McNaught-Mandil, on Doenhoff, finished second on a score of four.

Britain, who finished a disappointing sixth, suffered a setback when Nick Skelton's Dollar Girl, still sore from her crash on Thursday, was withdrawn and replaced by Geoff Clazzard, on Hello Oscar. Clazzard, making his Aachen debut at 46, was intimidated both by the size of the course and the highly charged atmosphere inside the "centre court".

Convinced that his 10-year-old stallion was not ready for Aachen's challenge, he rode cautiously and incurred 20 penalties over each round. Michael Whitaker raised hopes with a clear round on Midnight Madness in the first round, but dashed them in the second round when the erratic Dutch-bred gelding had eight penalties.

"He doesn't feel right; I think he's still feeling the leg he injured in St Gallen," Whitaker said.

Robert Smith put up a heroic performance on the 16-year-old Tees Hanauser, incurring only four faults, at the first fence, over the two rounds. John Whitaker, ironically, had an unlucky four faults on Granusch at the last. He did not compete in the second round — on the advice of Ronnie Massarella, the team manager — because Britain's placing could not, by then, be improved.

There was euphoria in the British dressage camp when the team, helped by a superb performance from Vicky Thompson, on Enfant, finished second to Germany, fielding their full Olympic squad. Although some 579 marks adrift from Germany's score, Britain, fielding only two of their Olympic riders — Thompson and Richard Davison — finished ahead of Switzerland, whose team included three Olympic partnerships.

### BOXING

## Gallagher facing stern test

By SRIKUMAR SEN

THE friends of P J Gallagher think he is one of Britain's best boxers and a world title prospect. They should find out more about that view when Gallagher defends his British super-featherweight championship against Charles Shepherd, of Carlisle, at Erith tonight.

Shepherd has ruggedness and strength to make Gallagher look ordinary and even expose the champion as little more than another deflated product of hype. Therefore, Gallagher needs a spectacular win, points or inside the distance, to underline the claims of his manager, Frank Maloney, that he is probably the most exciting British boxer since Barry McGuigan.

Certainly Gallagher in the ring looks like McGuigan in action, but, technically, Gallagher is better than McGuigan, having a far greater range of punches. The only pity is that he does not have McGuigan's hitting power. If he did, he would be unstoppable.

From the boxing point of view, Gallagher looks the most skilful in Britain today and the most exciting to watch as he goes forward keeping up an unrelenting work rate. He boxes from behind a high guard and, unlike most British boxers, throws as many punches to the body as to the head. He is an absolute delight to watch.

However, his lack of power to deter an intransigent opponent could make this contest his toughest. Gallagher had to get off the floor to beat a little known Ukrainian, Rakhim Mingalaceev, last January and against Shepherd he could find himself on the floor again.











## Skilled politician to navigate perilous Maastricht passages as Ireland takes EU helm

## Dorr is open to change

## DUBLIN FILE

by CHARLES BRENNER



THERE will be dancing on the banks of the Liffey on Monday as Ireland takes over the six-month presidency of the European Union from Italy. The European street festival in Temple Bar, a run-down district revived with the help of EU money, may be officially inspired, but the spirit will be there, thanks to Ireland's enthusiasm for the enterprise that, since 1973, has brought prosperity and helped to break the tie with its former colonial masters.

John Bruton, the Taoiseach, says he wants to get away from "the profusion and confusion of statements about everything" that often mark Euro-presidencies, and offer citizens progress in peace, combating drugs and crime, and better wages and jobs. "People have a hard time remembering more than four points," he says. The second of his items gained shocking urgency

with the gangland killing on Wednesday of Veronica Guerin, a journalist and mother who was celebrated as Dublin's top crime reporter.

But the success or failure of the Irish turn at the Euro-wheel will hang on another controversial item: producing the first draft for a revised Maastricht treaty.

When Dick Spring, the Foreign Minister, looked for a safe pair of hands for this daunting task, he decided to call back Noel Dorr. The Limerick-born Mr Dorr, who is a youthful 62, was enjoying retirement after finishing a stellar career as secretary of the Foreign Affairs Department. As a key player in the

original Maastricht negotiations, he did much to burnish Ireland's image as the model pupil in European affairs. A former Ambassador to London during the 1980s and chief United Nations envoy during the Falklands War, Mr Dorr is also a veteran of the Anglo-Irish minefield, a vital quality because Britain is the biggest challenge facing the inter-governmental conference (IGC), as the Maastricht review is called.

John Major is refusing to contemplate the dilution of the veto sought by all other states and, with the beef war far from won, he is deemed by the others to be spoiling for a fight on the treaty.

Mr Dorr is one of those unstuffy Irishmen with an unassuming exterior and a fierce intellect. "He's one of the oldest and one of the best," says a colleague of the diplomat, who is known, among other things, for his fear of flying and his fondness for computers. His enthusiasm for the technical has helped the Irish to draw up a fiendishly complicated chart setting out all the member states' wishes for the shape of the future Union.

Mr Dorr has summoned IGC negotiators to a brainstorming session in Cork next weekend to kick life into the conference, an exercise that has amounted since its launch in March to what he calls "skirmishing before battle". He aims to draw on the goodwill Ireland enjoys to bridge the gulf between Britain and the other member states on key points. The job is exceedingly delicate.



Noel Dorr, plucked from retirement to guide the treaty revision

## Economic boom defies the sceptics

EUROPE'S central bank governors are a pretty dour crowd these days, what with clogged economies and the agonies of the Maastricht "criteria" for monetary union. You would not, for example, expect to indulge in light banter with Hans Tietmeyer, the baron of the Bundesbank. So you might wonder if you have the right address when you drop in on Maurice O'Connell, keeper of the punt and a man visibly untroubled by the woes that bedevil his ilk on the Continent.

Ireland is still dogged by high unemployment but, as Governor of the Bank of Ireland, Mr O'Connell has the kind of monetary worries that Herr Tietmeyer can only envy. With its economic miracle, turbo-driven by the EU's lavish regional aid, Ireland is at the peak of an East Asian-style economic boom and is next to top of the Euro-class, behind the mini-state Luxembourg, in meeting the key criteria for monetary union in 1999.

Mr O'Connell sings his country's praises in the light tones of his native Kerry, quite without the grim reserve of his counterparts. "The Irish pound is comfortable... The economy is performing exceptionally well," he says.

However, one big cloud lurks on the horizon as Ireland prepares to swap the punt for the euro and acquire a berth in the EU's inner core. This is, he says, the risk that the British will stay out and let sterling devalue, to the cost of Ireland's still heavy trade with its neighbour.

## WORLD SUMMARY

## Remarks on Franco irk Spain

Madrid: President Scalfaro of Italy, in Spain on a state visit, stunned his hosts at a royal banquet by referring in his address to General Franco's "wisdom" (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Contrasting Italy's experience during the Second World War with that of Spain, Signor Scalfaro gave credit to Franco for "sparing his people from the tragedy of the last war". Franco, who ruled Spain for nearly 40 years, ensured that the country remained formally neutral.

Spaniards "could lead lives full of dignity" while Italy "was taken over by bloodshed", Signor Scalfaro said. The remarks came days before the country celebrates the twentieth anniversary of its return to democracy.

## Islamist to head Turkish Cabinet

Ankara: Turkey's Islamist Welfare Party of Necmettin Erbakan, which narrowly won inconclusive general elections in December, and the True Path Party of Tansu Ciller, the former Prime Minister, have agreed to form a coalition government.

The coalition is expected to give Islamists their greatest share of power in modern Turkey, a secular state, and make Mr Erbakan the first Islamist Prime Minister of the Nato member. (Reuters)

## Britain to send aid for Jaffna

Columbo: Britain is to donate five electricity generators costing about £800,000 to help restore power to the Jaffna peninsula in northern Sri Lanka, which the Government has taken from Tamil Tiger control. The aid is part of support by foreign countries for a £180 million reconstruction plan for the region. (AFP)

## Cambodia jails editor for libel

Phnom Penh: Chan Rattana, 34, editor of the Voice of Khmer Youth newspaper, was jailed for a year for libel in an article and cartoon that described Cambodia's co-prime ministers as "stupid". The Government has severely curtailed press freedom. (AP)

## Simply red

Bonn: German radio is releasing a "greatest hits" compilation CD of East German propaganda songs, featuring the defunct communist state's national anthem, and a Soviet song praising spying. (Reuters)

## Japan and Norway in deep water

Aberdeen: The International Whaling Commission ended a five-day conference here yesterday by condemning Norway and Japan for violating a ten-year moratorium on commercial whaling.

Norway walked out of the conference in protest at the resolution. In a long and angry speech, the Norwegian commissioner accused the organisation of overstretching its powers and acting like a dictatorship. The delegation returned to the conference after a couple of hours.

Norway has consistently rejected the moratorium and in 1993 resumed hunting minke whales in the northeast Atlantic Ocean.

Japan, for its part, was also accused of commercial whaling in an Antarctic "sanctuary" created in 1994. It does so under the guise of scientific research.

Both countries were similarly condemned by the commission last year and urged to cease their commercial whaling activities. (AFP, Reuters)

## Modern Captain Ahab wins whaling quota

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT



Tashtego hunting from the bows in Moby Dick

A REAL-LIFE Captain Ahab, who has pursued humpbacks Moby Dick-style in the Caribbean for more than 40 years, was celebrating yesterday after learning that his hunt can continue for another year.

The International Whaling Commission, ending its conference in Aberdeen, deferred decisions on granting the Makah tribe of American Indians and the Cukchis of Siberia fresh whaling rights after protests by governments and environmentalists.

But Athneal Ollivierre, 75, and his sailing boat Why Ask have been given approval to go to sea this year to catch his annual quota of two whales.

Mr Ollivierre, who lives on the island of Bequia, near St Vincent, said last night: "I have been whaling for 40 years and this tradition goes back here over 120 years. It is all done by hand. There is no engine in the boat, just sail and oars. Japan and Norway have power boats and machineguns. But I have a hand-held harpoon."

The hunt, which targets humpbacks migrating in mid-

March and the autumn, is "pretty scary. The boat is 27ft long but the whale can be 60ft". A six-man crew, with four 9ft-long wooden-poled harpoons weighing up to 200lb each, three lances and two handguns, sneak up behind the quarry. "You have to be very quiet or it will smash the boat up," Mr Ollivierre said.

Once the animal has been harpooned, the lance and guns are used to kill it by spearing or shooting the humpback through the heart. "When the whale is dead, the news is put out on the radio station so that anybody who wants some of the whale can come and get it."

Mr Ollivierre, who has now trained his nephew Arson to carry on the tradition, said he liked roasting the whale meat like a side of beef. People turn blubber into cooking oil and even a cod liver oil substitute for warding off colds.

But the whalers' days at sea may be numbered. Conservationists and scientists said yesterday that they would be pushing the commission to review the Bequia hunt next

year on the ground that it breaks the rules and is barbaric.

Dr Carole Carlson, a marine biologist with the International Fund for Animal Welfare who has watched the Bequia hunt, said that it was "anything but romantic or brave". She pointed out that Mr Ollivierre had been sanctioned by the commission for killing mother whales with calves. "A mother will not leave her calf until it has died. So if you get a calf which stays on the surface, you can also get the mother. This is not romantic."

St Vincent had argued that Mr Ollivierre's age meant the tradition would soon die out. But the emergence of Arson Ollivierre was proof that the issue was not going away, Dr Carlson said.

Dr Lesley Suttie, a Briton who is a member of one of the commission committees, said: "It took them two hours to kill a calf with numerous harpoons. The calf was hugging up to the mother. It was one of the most pathetic things I have seen."

## Talks fail on nuclear test ban

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

NEGOTIATORS failed to meet yesterday's deadline to agree a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty, but promised to return for more talks next month.

After 30 months of negotiations, Jaap Ramaker, the chairman, presented the 61 countries involved with a third draft text in less than a month and said: "The treaty is within our reach."

With strong disagreements on verification measures, Mr Ramaker said his new proposal was a compromise between the "desirable and the attainable". He called on negotiators to consult their governments and to give their decision on a new treaty when the Conference on Disarmament reconvenes in Geneva on July 29.

The original target date was set by the United Nations General Assembly last year, to allow the treaty to be signed at a ceremony in New York in September.

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\*The cashback represents 3% of the advance, up to a maximum cashback of £4,000. The Cashback Plus Mortgage is available to all new mortgage customers (including remortgages) and existing Woolwich customers who are moving home. The rate is variable throughout the term and the APR is variable and calculated on the assumption that the discounted mortgage rate will apply for the full term of the loan. However, after the first year, the Society's standard variable mortgage rate will apply. In fact, the 3% cashback offer and 3% rate reduction apply only where a written offer of cashback was issued on or after 28.02.96 and the mortgage completed by 31.10.96. Typical example: based on an interest rate of 5.99% (5.99% APR) and a purchase price of £70,000, a couple taking out a mortgage of £52,000 over 25 years would save £1,040 in interest over the term of the mortgage. The value of the cashback you receive must be repaid in full and a redemption fee percentage advance of 75% of the mortgage is other than in full at the end of the term. The redemption fee will be subject to a maximum charge equivalent to 5 months' interest. The cashback will be charged in instalments over the term of the mortgage. All mortgages are subject to terms, conditions and a maximum top of 10. A written quotation is required to the savings made as a result of the discount will be charged. The redemption fee will be subject to a maximum charge equivalent to 5 months' interest. The cashback will be charged in instalments over the term of the mortgage. All mortgages are subject to terms, conditions and a maximum top of 10. A written quotation is required to the savings made as a result of the discount will be charged. The redemption fee will be subject to a maximum charge equivalent to 5 months' interest. The cashback will be charged in instalments over the term of the mortgage. 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## OPINION

Britten's great pledge to be useful to his community should be taken by all artists



## INTERVIEW

Daniel J. Travanti on the long and winding road from *Hill Street Blues* to Henry James

## THE TIMES ARTS



## BASE NOTES

After Take That, take this: Gary Barlow launches his solo career with a new single



## BASE NOTES

Dance by the dinosaurs: a new ballet will be set in the Natural History Museum

Every June I make the pilgrimage to Aldeburgh. I knew the place before I ever set foot there. I knew the sound of the sea gnawing at shingle from Peter Grimes, and the creepy melancholy of the reed marshes at dusk from *Curlew River*. From Albert Herring I knew (or thought I knew) the snobby pretensions of the gentry-and-golf-club crowd; and from *Noyes Fludde* I caught a glimpse of a more ancient and worthy Suffolk trait: the sturdy stoicism of those who deal daily with the sea and its perils.

In other words, I knew Aldeburgh because I knew Benjamin Britten's music. Often, when you encounter the mundane reality of somewhere you previously knew only through its image in art, the disappointment is intense. The "blue" Danube, for instance: it was a grey sewer for Europe's industry even in Strauss's day.

Or the disappointment is in reverse: artists fail by attempting to depict a natural wonder that they don't have the technique to

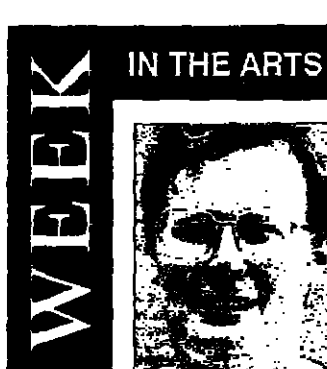
evoke. Nobody who has taken the bracing open-boat journey from Lona to the towering blackness of Fingal's Cave can hear Mendelssohn's soppy *Hebrides* overture without lamenting its stolid tameness.

But Britten and Aldeburgh? They are the perfect fit, though it took a self-imposed exile in America for the Suffolk-born Britten to understand this. "I suddenly realised where I belonged and what I lacked," he recalled in his great speech, *On Receiving the First Aspen Award*. "I had become without roots." And in the same speech he articulated the artistic creed that he adopted for the rest of his life: "to be useful and to the living." I don't believe that Britten wrote a single note without considering who was to perform it, who would be listening, and where the performance would be. No matter

how international his subsequent renown, he remained a "local composer" in the best sense.

Putting down roots: being useful. The two ideals seem so obvious, don't they? So it is startling to discover how alien they are to much 20th-century art. True, the rootlessness was often not the fault of the writers and composers: many had fled from dictators in their homelands.

But their intellectual remoteness from their potential audiences, their blasé attitude of "who cares if you listen?" (to quote the title of one avant-garde composer's notorious magazine article), was something that many actively cultivated. So when Britten said that he wanted to be "useful and to the living" — and said it in 1964, when Boulez, Stockhausen and their esoteric electronic gang were at their most influential — he was actually being



RICHARD MORRISON

rather brave and controversial.

Of course, he was also following in an honourable British tradition. There are many bad things about our suspicion of "high art", but one good thing is that British artists in

the past were never granted the luxury of an ivory tower into which to retreat, even if they had wanted one. To survive in this sceptical old nation they had to produce works with strong local appeal and usefulness. Indeed, there was barely a great British writer, painter or composer in the two centuries prior to 1945 who was not associated with a specific locality. Think of Hardy, Dickens, Constable, Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Spencer...

But recently our culture has become dysfunctional. Complacent or supercilious professionals at the top have lost touch with the broad public. That is as true in politics, sport and religion as it is in serious music, literature, sculpture and architecture. Oh boy, especially in architecture.

The result? A nation in splinters. No shared heritage. Little desire

by those with talent and power to use their gifts wisely for the general good. Little incentive for those at the bottom to join the culture club. National dreams turning sour. And kidology of the most pathetic kind coming from politicians and even journalists — as was graphically demonstrated the other day. If you believed some newspapers, the nation was united this week by a euphoria created by shared love of a noble sport. But hit us with a missed penalty goal — and Trafalgar Square is trashed. Euphoria and unity are not so easily won, it seems.

I still love Aldeburgh, but at festival-time it is a ghost of its former self — a hamlet without its prince, you could say. Britten died 20 years ago, and a pessimist might maintain that the maxim of "be useful and to the living" died

with him. But I am not a pessimist. In a much younger generation of composers, writers and artists, I can see a new missionary fervour: an urgent desire to reach people whose lives are at present hardly touched by art.

I can even discern, through the foggy bureaucrat-speak of recent Heritage Department and Arts Council pronouncements, a dawning realisation that the grass roots of culture need urgent attention if the whole garden is not to turn barren. Or perhaps they have simply run out of fashionable metropolitan projects on which to lavish the lottery millions.

But the beauty of Britten's Aspen speech was its simplicity and its personal commitment: one creative genius vowing to serve his community. His words should be emblazoned across every Arts Council memo, every stage door to every theatre and opera house, every classroom of every art and music college. For without that pledge, art is just another way of saying "look how clever I am".

## No longer desperate Dan

Actor Daniel J.

Travanti tells Carol Allen about burning out and coming back

To describe Daniel J. Travanti as voluble and articulate is to understate the case. The only difficulty about interviewing the American actor is that you never get to finish a question before he is launched again into another series of observations, reminiscences or anecdotes, changing his voice to suit the characters in his tale and using his hands to emphasise his words. And yet he describes himself as "really anti-social. I'm nice to people but I don't like my species very often." And he rarely eats in restaurants, as there are so few which cater to his diet: no salt, no sugar and no fat.

At a recent reception in *Leatherhead* on the pre-London tour of *The Aspern Papers*, in which he plays the role of the late Michael Redgrave created for himself, Travanti startled the theatre's supporters by eschewing the buffet proper and happily munching on the cucumber and tomato roses decorating the spread. And like an increasing number of people these days, he cannot stand smoking.

All of which could indicate an excess of California-style faddiness. He lived in Los Angeles for 29 years until a year ago, when he returned to his native Midwest to be near his family. But the reason for his lifestyle goes back 23 years to when, as a young actor struggling for recognition, he almost drank himself to death. "I crashed. I burnt and I came back," he says. "I was scared, an egomaniac with an

The roar of the greasepaint: Daniel J. Travanti left *Hill Street Blues* and other television roles for a crack at the theatre

inferiority complex. I looked and sounded confident but I was miserable. Because I wasn't near my family, they didn't know about the drinking and my secret demons. That's what you do when you're that sick, you hide it from everybody. I had no close friends, nobody intimate, no man, no woman. It's lonely, scary and you either pull through or you don't."

Travanti did pull through what he describes as "the final conflagration" and launched himself into a new life that eschewed all the addictions most of us are prone to. So when the big break finally came in the form of the hit television series *Hill Street Blues* in 1981, he was ready. "I was 40 when that happened. If it had happened in my twenties and thirties, when I really craved it, I would probably not have survived. It could only have happened at that point, when I had been

through that nonsense and was mature and stable enough."

During the seven years of the series' life, Travanti was inundated with offers of other television work, most of which he turned down, holding out for the quality award-winners, including Jack Gold's film about broadcaster Ed Murrow, which he made in England. But when the calibre of television offers declined and the feature-film roles he has always hoped for failed to materialise, Travanti put out the word that he would like to do some more theatre.

The play worked and in the past few years he has tackled such meaty and varied parts as the repressed middle-aged son in *I Never Sang for My Father*, a 16-week run as Valmont in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, back in London again; Cornelius Melody in Eugene O'Neill's *A Touch of the Poet*; and now Henry

Jarvis in Henry James's *The Aspern Papers*.

"A good play must have suspense, humour, pathos, genuine sentiment and lovely language, and this play has all those things," he says. "With James, it's all psychological and emotional action and you have to listen. But if you do, you'll be rewarded."

Now 56, Travanti's spare figure shows no sign of middle-age spread, while his large glasses, receding grey hair and period-style moustache give him the academic appearance of the obsessive scholar Henry Jarvis, who feigns a love he does not feel in his ruthless determination to get his hands on the Aspern papers of the title.

"But he's not so ruthless, that's part of his problem," Travanti says. "And he underestimates the woman he thinks he's deceiving. He's eccentric, completely possessed by this quest, and he thinks he's willing to go to any lengths, but he's not."

Rehearsing the play has not been an easy experience. Earlier this year the production was touring the country with David Soul playing the role. When Soul proved unavailable for the West End run, producer Bill Kenwright needed another American star name — and urgently. Travanti received the offer on a Tuesday, sent out to a local library for a copy of the play, accepted on Wednesday, arrived on Sunday and went into rehearsal the following day, barely two weeks before the play opened at *Leatherhead*.

"It was way too short. The rest of the cast understood perfectly, of course, and supported me in every way but I was still in my own hell. I shudder now, when I look back, I felt so pressured, so frightened. You do rally all of your senses when you have to, but I'm never going to go through that again. But it was my mistake. I did it, we got through it. And now that we have it pretty well under control, it doesn't feel that daunting any more."

• The Aspern Papers opens at Wyndham's Theatre on Monday

THE first of the ex-Take That members to make it into the record stores in solo form is the frontman and chief songwriter Gary Barlow. Fresh from winning two Ivor Novello awards for his former group's hit *Back For Good*, he releases his debut single *Forever Love* on July 8, and is completing work on an album, provisionally titled *Open Road*, for September issue. Also in the studio preparing solo work are his past colleagues Robbie Williams and Mark Owen.

• DANCING amid the dinosaurs? It's certainly a first for Dance Umbrella, Britain's biggest festival of contemporary dance, which has invited the American choreographer Stephen Koplowitz to create an original large-scale work inside one of the most imposing architectural sites in London: the Natural History Museum. Koplowitz's piece, staged in the Central Hall, will use 40 dancers performing at various points around the galleries and flights of stairs, while the audience stands below in the great space that houses the famous dinosaur fossils. The original vocal score is by Jonathan Stone.

## BASE NOTES

the designer is Craig Givens. The event takes place on September 28 and 29. Koplowitz is no stranger to such ambitious projects: he has already created a special event in the Whale Room of the American Museum of Natural History.

• TALK about moving quickly. No sooner had the National Theatre's sellout run of Wallace Shawn's *The Designated Mourner* finished its run on June 1 than director David Hare was at Pinewood Studios the next day directing the screen version for BBC Films. The cast, the same as it was for the play, consists of Mike Nichols, Miranda Richardson and David de Keyser. Meanwhile, word comes of a second feature film of a Shawn play, *Aunt Dan and Lemon*, to be directed by Bob Balaban and starring — if all goes well — Gwyneth Paltrow, William Hurt and his original Royal Court leading lady, Linda Hunt.

• FRESH from his current National Theatre triumph in *The Prince's Play*, Ken Stott

joins the already announced Tom Courtenay and Albert Finney when Yasmina Reza's play *Art*, translated from the French by Christopher Hampton, opens on October 8 at Wyndham's in the West End. The director is Matthew Warchus, who opted for this show over the National Theatre's forthcoming *The Alchemist*, which he had been initially announced to direct. Stott's casting, meanwhile, means director Lindsay Posner will have to find a new Alceste when his acclaimed Young Vic production of *The Misanthrope* arrives in the West End in the autumn.

• THE South London girl group Eternal have been chosen to perform the theme song to the forthcoming Walt Disney animated release, *The Hunchback Of Notre Dame*. Titled *Someday*, and written by Alan Menken (who penned the hit themes to *Pocahontas* and *Beauty and the Beast*), it has been produced by the British producer Simon Climie, and will be released on July 29, two weeks after the film's UK opening. Eternal have now sold more than five million copies of their two albums worldwide.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES HOLIDAY BOUND

Tomorrow, The Sunday Times gives you the ultimate holiday reading list in a special 16-page issue of the Books section. The country-by-country guide includes personal choices by Julian Barnes, Malcolm Bradbury, William Shawcross and other Sunday Times reviewers

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## THEATRE

Season of discontent: a bold *Richard III* lifts the RSC's last summer at the Barbican



## MUSICALS

Sondheim's adult fairy-tale, *Into the Woods*, is modestly staged at the Royal Academy of Music

## THE TIMES ARTS



## POP

Still in a permanent state of revolution. The Fall storm the barricades at the Astoria



## ON MONDAY

Veterans day out for Dylan and Daltrey: David Sinclair reports on the Hyde Park concert

THEATRE: Chillingly prophetic O'Casey; David Troughton gives Richard a damned good mugging

## Church in a hell of a state

Cock-a-Doodle Dandy  
Tron, Glasgow

WRITTEN in 1949 and first produced at the People's Theatre, Newcastle, O'Casey's play came to London ten years later but was not seen in Ireland until 1975. Ostensibly, the play's jibes at the Catholic Church were what kept it away, and at a time when the priesthood still held the whip hand O'Casey's mockery of superstitious and puritanical panic would have provoked roars of outrage. But his play is also an angry criticism of the smug little island De Valera presided over. Preserved in holy aspic from the horrors of the Second World War, the prime concern (so O'Casey implies) had become not just being safe, but putting money in the safe.

Hypocrisy and greed are two of his targets, and in Michael Marthram, the wealthy bog-own, and Sallor Mahan, owner of the lories that carry the valuable turf away, O'Casey creates a partnership along the lines of Joxer and the Paycock, arguing that the significance of heaven knows what. The pair are absurd, rotten and, especially Michael, utterly cowed by the local priest. Paul Riley looks ten years too young to be the father of an 18-year-old girl, but Callum Cuthbertson gives a roundly comical performance as Mahan, whose final treachery comes as a greater shock.

What these two share with all but one of the men in their remote village is a screaming fear of women and of any honest declaration of sexual feeling. Michael's daughter has returned from London with a new-found love of clothes and dancing, and her "pagan poison", as Father Dominer puts it, finds expression in the figure of a supernatural cockerel who rages through Michael's house, casts spells on the whiskey and, while terrifying the men, liberates the women.

Andy Arnold's production, for the Arches Theatre Company, shows us such exciting glimpses of an unruly bird inside Michael's house that we are seriously disappointed when it emerges, in the arms of the one village man who honours it, as a glove puppet looking like a large black egg cosy. Fortunately, Arnold relents and a high-stepping, proud-chested vision does make a belated appearance.

To create the rest of the trickery, the stage is regularly plunged into darkness or bathed in a red light, as though volcanoes were bursting through the peat. Even though O'Casey specifies some of this, and a metaphorical eruption of Vesuvius splendour is rocking the village, the handling of these shifts is sometimes clumsy. But a few shortcomings do not dampen the exuberance or the career language that can describe a bewitched bottle as "forced into a misunderstanding of itself". There is also O'Casey's harsh denunciation of a way of thought that demonises physical joy. For the sinister and murderous Dominer, Grant Smeaton finds a chillingly confident abuser and the creepy, child-abuser's smile. Prophetic.

JEREMY KINGSTON



"A blend of Mr Punch, Jarry's Pere Ubu and an alternative comedian born before his time". Richard III (David Troughton) with Elizabeth (Cherry Mason)

## Think of evil, and doublet

When the RSC brought its *Taming of the Shrew* to London in April, I found myself half-facetiously saying that we might not wholly regret its absence from the Barbican next spring and summer. Plymouth, or wherever it plans to sun itself in future, was welcome to a production that had a nice central pairing in Josie Lawrence and Michael Siberry, but contrived simultaneously to be overblown and welly "correct". Subsequently, the company's *Julius Caesar* and *Romeo and Juliet* left my *Times* colleagues as unexcited as they did me in Stratford last year. I mean, there must be something less than exceptional about revivals in which the standouts are Cassius and Friar Lawrence, especially as each role is played by the same actor, Julian Glover.

Striking things are admittedly to be found in the Pit, but this is not a champagne summer on the big Barbican stage. There is, however, one reason

for seeing the odd, operatic and dauntingly long production of *Richard III* that completes the season. His vast slab-face scowling or madly mugging and spinning, his consonants banging out in a scateo that has you diving for cover, David Troughton's Crookback is a monster to relish.

Crookback, do I say? Troughton's hump is the size of a sofa, which is quite a feat, since he himself is built like a padded armchair. And lest we miss him in the throng, he is dressed in a sort of Elizabethan bomber-jacket, coral in colour, with shorts and stock-

Richard III  
Barbican

ings to match, the whole topped off with a jester's cap and bells. The impression he leaves is of a blend of Mr Punch, Jarry's Pere Ubu and an alternative comedian born before his time. It is not as misconceived as you might think, for the Richard that Shakespeare created for the Tudor propaganda machine is more an ebulliently evil cartoon than a person.

He is also very much the play-actor. Troughton and his director, Steven Pimlott, sig-

nal this at the beginning, by making the "winter of discontent" monologue partly a slice of psychotic reverie but also a piece of Yorkist boastfulness directed at happily dancing courtiers. This Richard has a face and a performance for every occasion: wooer with hand on heart, penitent monk, friendly practical joker. When he talks of seeming a saint and being a devil, his face twists from plaster figurine to stone gargoyles. When he sends the little princes to the Tower he might be John Cleese, ushering royalty into Fawley Towers with an ingratiating smirk.

Obviously, this interpretation brings its problems. How

can Paul Bantall's tough, sane Hastings see this grotesque chameleon as the epitome of human candour? Moreover, Troughton is not too convincing when he seeks to suggest that there is a damaged, insecure infant inside the malignant posturing. But when he crushes the Bishop of Ely's gift of strawberries with a manic snarl, or sinks his dagger through Hastings's severed head and tosses it to the Mayor of London, he is terrific.

Elsewhere, Pimlott's production veers disconcertingly from relative realism to gaudy melodrama, and from ancient to modern. Mauve-white ghosts gather on the yellow-green rubble of Tobias Hohesel's set. A tiny chorus of citizens wanders in from 1930s Wigan. Meanwhile, John Nettles' Buckingham exudes a plausibly icy arrogance. Crazy place, 15th-century England; but then its king is a massively crazy guy.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## The magic forest

MUSICAL

Into the Woods  
RAM

THERE were five Sondheim shows running in London this week — *Company*, *Passion*, *Night Music* and what is known affectionately in the trade as *Twelve Sod*, now joined by his darksome intertwining of standard fairytales at the Royal Academy of Music, demonstrating at least one thing: he certainly does not repeat himself.

*Into the Woods* was a canny choice for the first public show by the new music theatre course of the Royal Schools' vocal faculty. It is an intricate and demanding piece and has been very well prepared musically: the conductor Martin Lowe keeps it all rolling merrily along until half the cast gets rubbed out by the vengeful (female) Giant in the second act. Lowe should encourage his band to play less loudly, though: given the director Matthew White's penchant for placing singers needlessly far upstage, there were problems of balance. If you cannot hear the words in Sondheim, you are in deep, deep trouble.

There is much promising talent on show. Little Red Riding Hood is a gift of a role, which Lesley McClymont seized gratefully in a deliciously pert and heady impersonation — it is not necessarily the nicest characters who survive. Susan Dumbreck's Witch noticeably improved once she had shed her overelaborate half-mask, and Graham Bruce, a charmingly naive Jack, plainly has a future. Chris Vincent's north-country Baker, Gillian Kirkpatrick as his wife, Steve Bradford as the Narrator whose elimination so unsettles the action — all were fine, and will soon learn to address the audience rather than each other. Promising talent yes, but not, if truth be told, consistently well guided.

RODNEY MILNES

## POP

## Still the only one in step

The Fall  
Astoria, WI

Victorian sermonising. There are traces of William Burroughs here, but a hefty dollop of William Blake too.

However, it is Smith's attitude rather than his lyrics which explains his enduring appeal. Lethally sarcastic and corrosively scathing, he remains the last great pugilist of British rock, a curmudgeonly gargoyles among preening pantomime rebels. Even his

stage relationship with the band resembles that of a disgruntled factory foreman surveying a sloppy batch of shiftworkers. Which, given his penchant for firing personnel, he effectively is.

Thankfully, though, the band's solid rhythmic engine of veteran drummer Karl Burns and longtime bassist Stephen Hanley remains in place. It also benefits from the recent return to guitar duties of Smith's chirpy Californian former wife Brix, an unlikely but perfect foil to the singer's scowling belligerence.

But ultimately it is this very belligerence which keeps the group vital. That's why, even after an hour-long set containing virtually no old favourites, they are loudly summoned back for a staggering four rounds of encores. Because the Fall mine a deep seam in the British psyche which no other band seem able to reach. After 20 years, they mean it, man.

STEPHEN DALTON

## GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

KEVIN MCKIDD

Profession: Actor

Age: 22

Looks familiar? Fans of Scotland's raw new movies will know McKidd from *Small Faces*. He played the satanic Malky, the psychopath with the golden curls. He also starred in *Trainspotting* as Tommy, the innocent guy who goes to the dogs on heroin.

Sticky ends: He goes up in smoke in *Small Faces*. In *Trainspotting*, Tommy dies in his own vomit.

Oops: McKidd was missing from *Trainspotting*'s cult posters. He booked his holiday on the week of the photo shoot. "Ah well," he says with a grin, "I got a good tan."

Where can you see him? This time with a pushy English accent, McKidd is making his RSC debut as Richmond, ousting David Troughton's wicked Richard III from the throne. "The obvious way to play Richmond," says McKidd, "is like an avenging angel, but there are wee hints that he is scared witless, 18 or 19 years old and suddenly asked to save England. He is heroic but I'm trying to make him human."

What inspired him to act? McKidd grew up in Elgin in the far north. The son of a water inspector and a secretary for a lemonade company, he had no theatrical kin. However, he acquired a taste for acting while understudying for the *Arfud Dodger*, aged eight. He spent several years hoping Spielberg was going to knock on the door looking for an Elliott in *ET II*. "I was very fat as a child," he says, "but on stage that didn't matter, which gave me confidence."

Undesirable moments: Pressed for time shooting *Trainspotting*, McKidd and his on-screen girlfriend had only one take to fornicate for the camera as the electricians threatened to switch the lights off for the night. Director Danny Boyle, out of shot, whispered instructions about more grunting. "This was something of a rush job," says McKidd wryly, "sort of funny and atrocious at the same time."

On himself: "I never really plan my life but everything seems to fall into place, luckily. When I act, I am very focused, then offstage I become this bumbling fool."

KATE BASSETT

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# Last legacy of the Raj

India's civil service still runs the show, says Sue Cameron

Top civil servants are now predicting that the Government will fall early in 1997. Some even believe the collapse could come before Christmas.

As one permanent secretary put it: "The general view among my colleagues is that it will take two or three months for the Government to settle down, two or three months for the splits to become really apparent and two or three months for it to fall." Meanwhile, the permanent secretaries are bracing themselves for what promises to be a particularly bumpy countdown to the general election.

As they prepare to preserve the slowly burgeoning economy from predatory politicians, they believe it is their task to keep the nation's fragile yet tenacious democracy on an even keel. Not in Britain but in India.

For these are not Whitehall mandarins, but the Sri Lankans — India's most powerful civil servants. Imbued with the same traditions of integrity, impartiality and intellectual excellence as their Whitehall counterparts, they are at least as influential, and probably more so.

It was they who kept a firm hand on the governmental tiller during the BJP's brief period of power last month. When BJP leaders proposed delaying elections in Jammu Kashmir, the permanent secretaries persuaded them that they should do no such thing. They even made the BJP Cabinet meet in the parliamentary lunchbreak on the very day of the no confidence motion that presaged its demise.

The persuasive powers wielded by India's top civil servants might be envied by some in Whitehall. The Indian general election, the uncertainties surrounding the short-lived BJP Administration, and the emergence of a regional/ left-wing coalition Government comprising no fewer than 13 political parties, have served to increase the sway of top civil servants.

In India they are known simply as the secretaries of their departments, which means the home secretary or the defence secretary are civil servants. India's top officials tend to display the same courteous contempt for their political masters — at least for some — as do their opposite numbers in Whitehall. "In India, ministers are often more interested in politics than in policy-making, so sometimes they are content to leave that to the civil servants."

The secretaries of the most important departments — the economic ministries plus defence, home and foreign affairs — meet just before the Cabinet does to discuss the agenda that will go before their political masters.

One secretary said that even in normal times, India's civil service was "brilliant" at analysing problems but less good at finding solutions. Right now it will be concentrating on keeping the ship of state steady rather than moving forward. One top official said: "We'll be able to stop politicians doing things but it is much less likely we'll be able to persuade them to act."

In the past five years the economic liberalisation programme has transformed the country, which has a tradition

of centralised state planning. All the major parties are now committed to it. Fears that religious fundamentalists and the strongly Hindu BJP Government might retreat from it have proved unfounded.

But the next steps to liberalisation must involve a degree of rationalisation in the public sector. India has no social security system and it would be unthinkable for any politician to contemplate job cuts in the run-up to an election. The secretaries agree that further moves will have to await the arrival of a new Government with a working majority and a full term ahead of it.

If liberalisation is one of the leitmotifs of Indian public life, the other is corruption. The going rate for buying an MP's vote at the time of the election was reputed to be between £200,000 and £400,000. As with everything in India, it is the scale that is breathtaking.

But there is a reaction against wide-spread corruption. And today the British High Commission in India is doing such brisk business in copies of the Nolan report into British public life that it is having to send back to London for extra supplies.

India's top civil servants sometimes try to curb the worst excesses of their political masters. The system for internal whistle-blowing is the same as in Whitehall — the secretaries can take complaints about impropriety to the Cabinet Secretary and then to the Prime Minister. One secretary commented dryly that the whole thing did rather hinge on the moral tone of the Prime Minister.

Indian civil servants cannot be sacked or demoted by politicians, though they can be sidelined into unexciting jobs. They are not highly paid, although top officials enjoy prestige in Indian society and they also enjoy good living standards, with housing at peppercorn rents, chauffeur-driven cars and opportunities for foreign travel. Yet economic growth means their financial rewards compare ever less favourably with those in the private sector. And it is with a sense of déjà vu that you hear tales of creeping politicisation which began under a powerful female Prime Minister.

Hardly anyone believes that India's most senior officials are corrupt. Yet the secretaries themselves talk of civil servants being uncorrupted "by and large" or "60 per cent uncorrupted". And in a comment on corruption that could have come straight out of a Yes, Minister script, one of them remarked: "I don't think ministers could do it all on their own, you know."

One secretary said it was for the public and the press to expose ministerial corruption, not senior civil servants. Asked if he would aid the process by leaking details of ministers' dark dealings to the media, he looked shocked. "Certainly not," he said. "That would be unprofessional."

Yet in times of political turbulence it is the professionalism of India's most senior civil servants — who are seen as bulwarks of stability and as guarantors that moves to liberalise the economy will not be thrown into reverse — that brings reassurance.

Ralph Harris celebrates Samuel Smiles, whose classic *Self-Help* has been neglected to our cost

# How Victorians helped themselves

When Emperor Meiji opened Japanese minds to the outside world in the mid-19th century, *Self-Help* was one of the first European texts chosen for translation in 1870. According to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "it became a kind of Bible for ambitious young Japanese eager to emulate Western examples of success". So perhaps the most enduring monument to Samuel Smiles — neglected, like his fellow Scot Adam Smith, in the land of their birth — has been the formidable economic vigour and social stability of the Pacific Rim, unimpaired to this day by collectivised social welfare.

If only the early Fabians had heeded Smiles rather than Marx! In retrospect, a reading of *Self-Help* suggests that the worst error of old Labour, adopted opportunistically by Lloyd George's Liberals in 1906 and reluctantly by Butskellite Conservatives after 1945, has been to corrupt mass democracy by preaching false hopes of what government and party politics can do, without thought for

self-help. Not only were unpriced expectations bound to escalate and eventually prove untenable; they inevitably weakened the burgeoning working-class tradition of self-reliance and mutual aid pioneered by Friendly Societies and the spontaneously evolving benevolent activities of the "new model" craft unions.

What incalculable economic costs, political disillusion and social demoralisation might have been avoided if the Chartists and the union leaders — with whom Smiles as editor of the radical *Leeds Times* in the 1840s at first sympathised — had only heeded his guidance:

"The highest patriotism and philanthropy consists, not so much in altering laws and modifying institutions, as in helping and stimulating men to elevate and improve themselves by their own free and independent individual action."

Well-heeled Fabians were bound to scorn a book entitled *Self-Help* as the vulgar commendations of selfishness and worldly success. But that simply

proved that they had not read it. So far from a shallow exposition of "economic man", *Self-Help* is an uplifting study of individual morality brought to life by personal examples.

Drawing on jottings culled from wide reading, foreign travel and varied experience as a doctor, newspaper editor and railway executive, Smiles offers new insights about such familiar heroes as Arkwright, Crompton, Hunter, Reynolds, Scott, Stephenson, Watt, Wedgwood, Wellington. From these lives and those of the less famous inventors, surgeons, scientists, scholars, linguists, lawyers, musicians, artists and philanthropists, he draws the lesson that disciplined diligence can suffice to make good the want of genius, no less than material means, in conquering every "vexation".

But can a book written in 1859 and selling nearly 250,000 copies by 1900 offer lessons for us today? Smiles had no doubts about the timeless moral basis of his primer. In the first paragraph he claims:

The spirit of self-help is the root of all genuine growth in the individual; it is exhibited in the lives of many, it constitutes the true source of national vigour and strength... Whatever is done for men and classes to a certain extent takes away the stimulus and necessity of doing for themselves...

To dismiss such trenchant analysis as mere "Victorian values" ignores how the multiplication of social benefits has mocked good intentions to spread the chronic malaise of dependency that stunts the lives of growing numbers of able-bodied young people and the offspring of single-parent families. If "New" Labour can discard other socialist illusions — about central planning, trade union power, state industries and even progressive education — why does not Mr Blair frankly acknowledge the malignancy of universal state welfare in elbowing-out self-support and mutual aid which once underpinned working-class culture? It was after all the ethos of which I and millions more are the fortunate

beneficiaries — including perhaps a majority of other life peers on the Labour and Independent, if not the Conservative and Liberal Democrat benches in the House of Lords.

Smiles employs dozens of synonyms for perseverance: unflinching persistence, strenuous energy, unflinching diligence, indefatigable zest, ardent exertions, invincible determination, ceaseless resolution... all deployed in overcoming every imaginable deprivation of birth, upbringing, education, inadequate resources or, equally debilitating for many, too comfortable an inheritance. He quotes a bishop of the old school who said: "It is better to wear out than rust out." Alas, his modern counterpart is more likely to join John Prescott in calling on the Government — or Brussels — to enforce a 35-hour week.

Lord Harris of High Cross has written a foreword to the new edition of *Self-Help*, published on Monday by the IEA (£14).

# Great art knows no borders

I'd love the V & A to buy Becket's casket — but only at the right price

After a week of yob chauvinism we now have toff chauvinism. It may not be on a level with the obscene xenophobia of last week's tabloids. But chauvinism — the patriotism of the insecure — is no less absurd for going under the rubric of culture. I refer to the affair of the Thomas à Becket casket. This fine work is to go on sale at Sotheby's next week, whereupon in the words of the headlines it "could be lost to the nation forever". This is said to be a humiliation to British pride. The Victoria and Albert Museum is hoping to lead our boys out next Thursday in a penalty shoot-out against dastardly foreigners out to grab our patrimony.

The story begins with Thomas, French-speaking son of a Norman businessman who befriends the King of most of France and England, Henry II. Henry is eager to re-establish royal power over the church in his British domain and makes Becket his Chancellor, then his Archbishop of Canterbury. They fall out when Becket goes native to his new vocation and refuses to yield church property or privileges to the king. (It is hard to sympathise with Henry in much of this dispute.)

Fearing for his life, Becket flees to France and stays there six years. In 1170, with Henry also in France, Becket sails back to Canterbury to reassert his authority. He is particularly angry that Henry is equally angry at Becket's return and, so it is believed, sends four of his knights to arrest him. The knights cross the Channel to England and, in a scuffle at Canterbury Cathedral, knock the top off Thomas's head, spilling out his brains. Whether or not this was an accident is still moot. Henry brilliantly exploits the murder. Becket is canonised within three years, abbeys are founded across the



Murder in the cathedral: Becket is mortally wounded by Henry II's knights. The drama is captured in this fine relief on the Limoges reliquary

land and Henry's remorse becomes as famous as Becket's death (re-enacted by Peter O'Toole, with Richard Burton as Becket).

Throughout Norman Europe in those days, a new saint meant a new market in relics. The industry promptly set to work. Hardly a nave in England did not have a Becket wallpainting — as dozens still do. Manuscripts were illuminated. Medallions were struck. Pilgrims trudged, sang and prayed their way along the North Downs to the shrine at Canterbury. Chaucer celebrated their course. The Limoges enamel factory in Henry's Aquitaine produced souvenirs by the thousand. Of numerous reliquary caskets portraying Thomas's martyrdom and said to contain fragments of his body, at least 40 still exist. The likelihood of this particular one ever contained bits of Becket must be slight. Only the most warped necromancer could regard such a possibility as of national importance.

The Sotheby's casket found its way from France to Peterborough and into the hands of the 18th-century Huntingdon collector, Sir John Cotton. From there it wound its way through the drawing rooms and galleries of Europe, to Darguere in Paris and then to the German Koller-Truniger collection. It was acquired

from Germany as an investment by British Rail pensioners in 1979. Possible bidders next week include a Canadian collector and the Getty Museum in California, unless the Victoria and Albert Museum can negotiate a private deal before Wednesday.

The casket is a marvellously preserved work of 12th-century craftsmanship. Though not unique, it is certainly rare and would adorn any mantlepiece or museum shelf. The animated figures of Becket are picked out in gilt copper, against a blue enamel background. On the lid the saint's body is being mourned and prepared for Heaven. A French artist has vividly recreated one of the most celebrated incidents of Norman history. But then so have many English artists, in manuscript and mural. I recommend the superb painting of the murder, painted soon after the event, in Brookland church on Romney Marsh.

No purpose is served by portraying the casket as some sort of national talisman, a spiritual ark of Britain's post-Maastricht independence. The Becket casket is not British. The French made it. The art is French, as is the workmanship. The scene depicted is of men whose culture was Norman, acting out a political crisis in a state the bulk of

which was on French soil. This work is a product of Europe's collective history, created at a time when Norman armies and Roman monasteries bestraddled the Continent. At the same time as a French king ruled England an English pope, Nicholas Breakspear, sat on St Peter's throne in Rome. International pilgrims flocked to shrines without regard for boundaries. Cities, not states, dominated European trade alliances.

Canon Jack Higham of Peterborough is reported as saying that the casket "is part of our heritage" and it was unthinkable for "something so rooted in our history to leave."

But a Limoges box is not a national treasure. It is not the Crown Jewels. It is not the Stone of Scone or the Armada portrait or even Churchill's Panama.

If the nation's sense of identity must be enshrined in sacred relics, which is debatable, this is the most hyperbolic idolatry. Next thing we shall

all be worshipping old bones on Salisbury Plain.

In 1970 a row erupted over the sale at Christies of a Velasquez portrait of a slave boy. The picture came from Lord Radnor's sitting room and, after much argument, ended in the Metropolitan Museum in New York. The sale was regarded by some as a loss of Britain's heritage. The argument was baffling. A Spanish painting that had been hanging privately on a wall in the English countryside is now being enjoyed by millions in New York, including thousands of British tourists who could never have enjoyed it back home. There has been no "loss to Britain".

Most paintings and other movable artefacts are not inherited relics of the nation state — though I accept that a few are. We rarely see our history reflected in them. Their presence on British soil is not some crude plus-for-Britain. Nor are they heritage infrastructure, as we might regard a church, a royal portrait or perhaps the fittings of a great house. The international trade in such works is the way new countries build up their own galleries, and come to appreciate the glory of European civilisation. One of the bounties of American collecting over the past 50 years has been to bring to public view hundreds of paintings

long hidden in private European collections.

The Becket casket was created for sale or for a patron and has been enjoyed by owners in Britain, France and Germany for eight centuries. Its arrival in Britain in 1979 to enrich railway pensioners did not induce a surge of national pride, any more than its departure in 1929 had been a cause for shame. The casket has been quietly on loan to the British Museum for the past 15 years without attracting patriotic hordes. Were it to go on display at the Getty Museum I would feel no humiliation. (The British Museum did try to buy the casket but could not match what the pension fund regarded as the open market price.)

I would love this beautiful object to be in the V&A. Helping to buy it is a legitimate use of public funds set aside for such a purpose. But keep nationalism out of it. No sensible British interest is involved in keeping a casket within this island fortress, a fortress stuffed with the "national treasures" of other countries. Chauvinism is a potent enough emotion without having phoney icons created in its name. The Becket casket is a minor masterpiece of a cosmopolitan art. If the price is fair, let it be in my back yard. If not, good luck to whoever lands it, wherever they live.

Simon Jenkins

# Baron Boyar

RUSSIA'S new money has finally found its way to the bleakest reaches of Scotland, where an intimate of Russian President Boris Yeltsin has bought up the medieval Skelbo Castle and baronial rights from the Colditz survivor Michael Alexander. Until now, little has been known about the buyer, who acquired the property and titles two months ago. Alexander, as much as anyone, was kept in the dark about

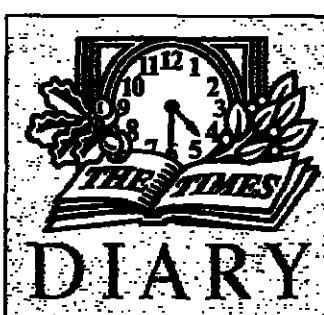
the new owner. It is now obvious why.

Mikhail Debouar, the new Baron of Skelbo Castle, is a wealthy businessman in Russia. He has kept quiet about his acquisition so as not to embarrass Boris Yeltsin during the ongoing Russian elections. Yeltsin's opponents would have had too much fun if they found out that one of the President's biggest supporters was buying Scottish land and titles.

Debouar, whose purchase was sponsored by the Labour life peer Lord Whaddon, will now be able to wear several sorts of baronial robe, the baronial chapeau and carry the baronial wand. His people were tighish in their efforts to protect news of all this from seeping out.

Alexander, although interested in the political dimensions, is more concerned with the well-being of his family's inheritance. "I sold it on the understanding that restoration would occur. All I hope is that we can soon get on with it."

Ever the gracious hosts, the French have put President Clinton's down-home eating habits before their own considerable pride at the G7 summit in Lyons.



Realising that the heavenly preparations of teams of Michelin-starred chefs would be wasted on an Arkansas palate, the staff at Clinton's hotel, the Sofitel, have been ordered to dress up in cowboy and Indian outfits to serve up hamburgers and troughloads of tongue-scorching chilli whenever the first stomach grumbles.

## Foot note

SPEAKING at the Imperial War Museum on Thursday night, Baroness Thatcher was either making more mischief for John Major or the victim of a genuine slip of the tongue. Asked what she made of Tony Blair's assertion that as Prime Minister he would be prepared to press the nuclear button, she replied: "Well, we'll have to wait and see, won't we?" Surely she

was not joining the throng proclaiming the inevitability of a Labour victory? After a moment's pause, however, she added: "If he becomes Prime Minister, of course."

On the big issue of the week, however, she was more sound. "I didn't see the game as I had a lot of work on but I saw it on the news," she explained. "My heart went out to that poor boy Gareth. That penalty thing," she said kicking the air. "That's no way to decide a game."

Fallout continues to rain down from the Daily Mirror's nuclear German-bashing this week with news that Jo Brand, soi-disant comedienne, will no longer be writing for the paper. "Jo only has one more column to write," says her agent. "When her contract comes up she does not want to renew it." Miss Brand, not the sort of woman to be wrestled out of her bus seat, is said to have been underwhelmed by her paper's xenophobic posturings. Meanwhile, senior staff have been summoned by the Mirror's editor, Piers "Guten" Morgan, for a hush-hush meeting on Sunday to relaunch the paper.

## On the ball

CROSS-DRESSERS are destroying the spirit of Thailand's national

volleyball team. The problem arose when a team of transvestites from the northern Lampang province recently won the national gold medal in the sport. Despite their enormous popularity, however, none of the 12 men in the team — who have undergone plastic surgery, developed bosoms and cake themselves with make-up — have been selected for the national side. A long glittering finger nail is being pointed at the national selectors, who are accused of sexual discrimination.

"Yes, some of our players have undergone plastic surgery to grow



Jo Brand puts down her pen

their breasts," said Patphong Srinutham, the team's co-ordinator, "but although we act and look like women, I think we have every right to play in the men's team since we have not yet changed our sexual organs." Teased by other players at the national trials, they were then spurned by selectors. Thai volleyball officials were unavailable for comment.

Latest addition to the American political scene is Butt-man, a man dressed up in a soft wire and mesh cigarette butt. A Democrat, his job is to attend rallies for Bob Dole, the Republican presidential candidate, muscle his way into photographs and heckle Dole for accepting campaign donations from tobacco interests. Butt-man marks a step up from the six Democrats in chicken outfits who persecuted George Bush in 1992 with clucking noises, due to his reluctance to debate with Bill Clinton.

## Praise him

UNNATURAL spates of chutney-dropping at the Mothers' Union this summer can be explained by excitement over a new clerical star: the Rev Will Adam, 26, who features in the new Ford Escort Sereade advertisement. Adam, a curate in Beaconsfield, is seen



Heart throb: Rev Will Adam

cruising round in his car waving at assorted women. "Will Adam has married 14 women since he got his," says the voice-over as the camera pans down to reveal a dog-collar nestling beneath Adam's cherubic features.

"I didn't even have to get a costume," says Adam. With no previous acting experience, he insists that he was selected quite arbitrarily by the Church of England's chief broadcasting officer. Now, however, he is hooked. "I am open to offers," says Adam.

P.H.S

# COP Lessons

The decade-long manipulation of the copper market by Yusuo Hamada, a middle-ranking executive of Sumitomo Corporation — a scandal to a doubling in the world price and cost Sumitomo \$2 billion losses in the last two weeks — drama than the now-clichéd arrogant financier's rise and fall. As the details emerge, it seems not just an ordinary tale of hubris. Mr Hamanaka's sudden supply of copper: deep involvement in the now-clichéd conspiracy to impose a Japanese economic. In a James Bond movie, evidence that Sumitomo's manipulations were supported by shadowy agencies of the Chinese Government — and, suddenly even more exciting, their financial power — Mr Hamanaka, accelerating his colossal suburban plumber was involved. Mr Hamanaka's act the ten years drove the price of the world's most important raw metal down like a yo-yo, took it





## MUD AND STARS

'The hour when earth's foundations fled'

The bloodiest day in the history of the British Army dawned 80 years ago this Monday. As the "Big Push" against the German Second Army began, a summer haze dusted the rolling valleys of the Somme: the weather on July 1, 1916, Siegfried Sassoon noted bitterly, was "of the kind commonly called heavenly". For 19,240 men of the British Expeditionary Force, it was to be their last; a further 35,493 were to be wounded.

The toll, the highest suffered by any side on one day throughout the First World War, was the more shocking for being unanticipated — at least by the men. General Henry Rawlinson, commanding the British Fourth Army, had private doubts about the strategy; yet he had told officers that after a week of heavy artillery barrages, "nothing could exist" in the German trenches and they had only "to walk over and take possession". They were sent over the top as though on parade, in line abreast and weighed down by at least 66 pounds of gear. When the German machine-guns opened up, one soldier's diary that night records, his pals were "mown down like autumn corn before the cutter". The West Yorkshires alone suffered 710 casualties; in the 1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment, not an officer survived.

The Battle of the Somme petered out on November 19 — literally stuck in the mud which, Private Eric Gore mordantly wrote home, "clings like poor relations and breeds twice as fast". By then, all for a strip of strategically insignificant territory approximately six miles deep, a million had been killed or wounded: 420,000 British and Empire, 204,000 French and more than 440,000 German.

The Somme was the graveyard, as it was in terms of dogged courage the glory, of Kitchener's New Army — legions of volunteers, many of them from small towns such as Accrington or Barnsley. They were Housman's honoured "mercenaries", recruited on the basis that they would serve together as chums; when the heart of these platoons was ripped out at the Somme, their communities were devastated.

Of the Somme, John Massfield wrote in

1919: "Gommecourt is heaped with the bodies of Londoners; the London Scottish lie at Sixteen Pipers; the Yorkshires are outside Serre, the Warwicks in Serre itself; all the great hill of the Hawthorn Ridge is littered with the Middlesex... Jolly young fusiliers, too good to die." In the battles that followed the place of this citizen's army was to be taken by conscripts, a necessity alien to Britain's traditions. The front reached into almost every household in the land.

With them were buried the certainties of post-Enlightenment society and the social confidence of Edwardian England. The social as well as the political map of Europe was now truly rolled up and a new one was in the design. Politicians did not immediately pay a price for the Somme: if anything it confirmed the ascendancy of Lloyd George, who as Secretary of State for War from July 6, 1916, might have expected criticism. But politics itself acquired a harsher face. There was no mutiny, as there was by French troops after Verdun, but it was grim determination that saw through a struggle about whose sordid waste and seeming futility there were few illusions left. Before the Somme campaign, Rupert Brooke's image of war as a cleansing patriotic fire struck the note of the hour; after, Wilfred Owen's morass of mud and rubble better caught the rumblings of indecision.

"Chivalry here took a final farewell", the German writer and highly decorated war veteran Ernst Jünger was later to reflect: "The Europe of today appeared here for the first time on the field of battle." That was appallingly true, in two respects. Exposure to industrialised slaughter on this scale gave birth in Britain to the strong pacifist movement of the inter-war years; but it also brutalised a generation. Hitler, gassed on the Somme, was to send six million to the gas chambers. There is a sense in which the Somme campaign has never ended: there were dragon's teeth among the poppies. From them sprang the Second World War and a divided Europe. Eighty years later parts of that great wound have begun to mend: some parts will never heal.

## DEVOLUTION DANGERS

A referendum may not be the clever ploy it seems

Tony Blair has made his reputation by taking audacious risks with his party. His latest move, to announce a referendum on devolution for Scotland and Wales, is the boldest so far, and the most cavalier. While it may win him tactical political advantage, it also has the potential to go badly awry.

There is nothing wrong in principle in seeking the support of Scots and Welsh voters before going ahead with devolution. Indeed, we have always argued that major constitutional changes ought to be validated by referendum. But the way in which this policy has been made was sure to cause maximum resentment in the ranks of the Labour Party and its partners in the Scottish Constitutional Convention. The result has been two resignations from the front bench and many more long faces elsewhere.

If that were all, Mr Blair might judge the exercise to have been worthwhile. Now he can counter Tory accusations that Labour would impose a "tartan tax" on the Scots. By dividing the referendum into two questions — whether to have an assembly and whether to give it tax-varying powers — Labour can claim that the Scots will have the powers if they want them and not if they do not. Meanwhile, he can also counter nationalist claims that Labour only wants a "talking shop". Mr Blair would probably be quite happy if that were the result, but at least the outcome is in the hands of the Scots themselves.

Internally, this has been an exercise in re-establishing English dominance in the Labour Party. The Constitutional Convention might have come up with a proposal that united all the parties in Scotland, but it did not include the English in its deliberations. If Labour wins the next election, most

of its new MPs will be from English seats that were formerly held by Tories. They will be crucial in voting through any devolution legislation, and they need to be able to defend themselves against a strong English nationalist campaign both during and after the election.

But it is precisely because of this campaign that Mr Blair cannot insulate his referendum proposals. A referendum must be preceded by legislation. Unless Labour has a big majority, how can it ensure that its version appears in the Bill? In 1979, the Labour Government's devolution plans were scuppered by the insistence of a Labour MP, George Cunningham, that a simple majority would not suffice. This time the same wrecking amendments could be put, to change either the questions or the majority needed. Parliament might even demand that the whole of the UK be consulted.

Yesterday Mr Blair suggested that the referendum be held merely on the contents of a White Paper to be published soon after an election. This too raises problems. Given how much amendment most legislation suffers in its passage through Parliament, the Scots and Welsh would then be voting not on facts but on aspirations.

The biggest risk to Mr Blair is the damage this decision may do to his own reputation. For every voter who admires his audacity, there will be many more wondering what other principles he may be prepared unilaterally to fudge or jettison before or after he wins power. To describe him as Wilsonian in his nimble political footwork may be taken as a compliment by his entourage. Others will remember how little Harold Wilson's machinations achieved.

## COPPER CROPPER

Lessons from the Sumitomo scandal

The decade-long manipulation of the world copper market by Yasuo Hamanaka, a middle-ranking executive of Japan's Sumitomo Corporation — a scandal which led to a doubling in the world price of copper and cost Sumitomo \$2 billion in trading losses in the last two weeks — was a richer drama than the now-clichéd story of one arrogant financier's rise and fall.

As the details emerge, it seems that this was not just an ordinary tale of personal hubris. Mr Hamanaka's success in cornering the supply of copper depended on the introverted complacency of Japanese corporate culture. It may even have involved a conspiracy to impose a Japanese vision of cartelised, managed capitalism on the global economy. In a James Bond twist, there is evidence that Sumitomo's manipulation was supported by shadowy agencies of the Chinese Government — and to make the climax even more exciting these partners suddenly betrayed the cartel and turned their financial power against Mr Hamanaka, accelerating his collapse.

The ordinary British consumer and the humble suburban plumber was also directly involved. Mr Hamanaka's activities, which for ten years drove the price of one of the world's most important raw materials up and down like a yo-yo, took money directly

out of the pocket of every householder who installed a central heating system or bought a new telephone. More importantly, by pushing up the price of a metal which has always been seen as a bellwether for other industrial commodities, Sumitomo's manipulation helped provoke unjustified alarm about inflation and encouraged governments and central banks to raise interest rates and stifle economic growth.

Apart from its unusual dramatic angles, this was a story with many of the same conclusions as the previous financial scandals. It shows that many of the largest and most sophisticated companies in the world still seem unable to understand and control the immense power of financial leverage. It shows that the markets themselves and the government agencies which regulate them need to work much harder to ensure transparent and honest dealings by all those involved. But above all it shows the long-term value of free capital movements and open financial markets.

In the end, the financial speculators, led by Herbie Black, a scrap metal dealer from Montreal, managed to break the Japanese cartel. As Margaret Thatcher said, you can't buck the market. Perhaps this is a lesson that many Japanese corporate leaders and politicians have yet fully to take on board.

## Blair's rethink on devolution

From Mr Ian Flintoff

Sir, If Labour's policy for Scotland is changed without the agreement, or apparently the knowledge, of one whom you describe today as "a front-bench spokesman on Scottish local government and constitutional affairs", one wonders on what conceivable democratic principle Labour's policies are being made at all.

Yours sincerely,  
IAN FLINTOFF  
(Labour Parliamentary Candidate,  
Plymouth, Devonport, 1987,  
22 Chaldon Road, SW6,  
June 28.

From Mr Nicholas Allan

Sir, The Labour Party's proposed referendums for Scotland and Wales demonstrate a real commitment to democracy. It is right that the people of these two nations should be given the opportunity to determine their own destinies. If John Major believes that the people of Northern Ireland may decide their own future then he must extend this principle to Scotland and Wales.

Few would deny that the Protestant majority in Northern Ireland would vote to remain within the Union. It seems likely that a majority in Scotland at least would vote for some form of devolution.

It appears to me that Mr Major believes in democracy only when he can be sure the vote will go his way.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS ALLAN,  
310 Wandsworth Bridge Road, SW6,  
June 27.

From Mr Robin Fairlie

Sir, I take issue with Magnus Linklater's suggestion today that "a majority of Scots actually voted yes last time" (ie, in 1979). In fact a majority of those persons living in Scotland who chose to vote voted yes. The very many Scots who, like myself, live for the time being outside Scotland were not consulted, while a majority of those entitled to vote either didn't want a Scottish Assembly, or didn't want it enough to trouble themselves to vote.

To represent the proposed Scottish and Welsh bodies as "national" assemblies is to issue a fraudulent prospectus: they are a form of local government based not on nationality but on residence. Nor do I understand the objection to another referendum before such a step is taken: if the majority of people resident and voting in Scotland, or Wales, vote against such assemblies, then there cannot be any possible argument for them.

For me, the best aspect of the referendum proposal is that I can now cheerfully vote Labour in the faith that the one truly asinine proposal hitherto on Labour's agenda will not actually be implemented.

Yours etc,  
ROBIN FAIRLIE,  
15 Vincent Terrace, NI,  
June 27.

From Mr William M. Ballantine

Sir, Magnus Linklater is quite correct in saying that we Scots have long memories — some of us remember that last devolution referendum only too well. We were repeatedly told, by the pundits of the time, how the Scots wanted devolution; yet when it came to the crunch, a single-issue referendum, one third voted yes, one third no, and one third didn't even vote.

I suspect that the result of another referendum would be similar. Hence there must be safeguards, as there were the last time, to ensure that unpopular legislation is not foisted upon us by a minority. (In the 1979 Scottish Devolution Bill 40 per cent of the electorate was required to vote.)

Yours faithfully,  
W. BALLANTINE,  
47 The Quarryknoves,  
Dean Road, Bo'ness, West Lothian,  
June 28.

From Mr Peter M. Cooke

Sir, If it is considered necessary for referendums on parliaments/assemblies for Wales and Scotland (which I do not for a moment think it is), then why not allow all citizens in the UK to take part? Or is the possible break-up of the United Kingdom considered a question in which the English have no interest? And what about a nationwide referendum on the future of Northern Ireland?

Yours sincerely,  
PETER M. COOKE,  
100 Sylvan Road, SE19,  
June 28.

## Divided by sport

From Dr Jennifer Sommerville

Sir, For days now we have had saturation coverage in the "national" media of the English football team's semi-final match with Germany in Euro 96. Contrary to the belief apparently prevalent south of the border, the English team is not the national team, and up here we are not, definitely not, a nation in mourning; in fact many of us were rooting for Germany.

In the face of such English self-importance, do you wonder that many Scots desire devolution or even complete independence?

Yours faithfully,  
JENNIFER SOMMERVILLE,  
Monkmyre, Myrreiggs Road,  
Coupar Angus, Perthshire,  
June 27.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Moral responsibility and living up to what we believe

From Dr William J. Gaskill

Sir, As a humanist, I find myself offended by the implication in Michael Gove's article, "Looking for a reason to believe" (June 24), that the only path to moral behaviour is through religion.

For Christianity to set out to reconquer the ground it has lost does not represent progress. Its growing popularity represents, to me, more of a destabilisation of Western civilisation than any spiritual rebirth.

Since the decline of the Catholic Church, there is no single sect or faith which could hope to attract the majority of the moral refugees now looking for places to dwell.

More converts will inevitably mean more fragmentation and more conflicts such as those in Bosnia, Northern Ireland, or the Sudan. Science has definitely not become, as Mr Gove puts it, "the victim of the relativism it once rode to prominence on — just another opinion in the market for meaning for questing souls".

If we talk of markets, then science is hard currency, and religion is roubles. If science has become a victim of anything, it is declining standards in education. Woolly answers to vaguely expressed questions appeal to the undiscriminating listener because they are absorbed without effort.

If we could restore the notion that economic activity was designed to provide livelihoods for people rather than profits for investors, and if we gave our children more attention and affection while they were growing up, we wouldn't need to cast around for outdated and superstitious solutions to the practical problem of how to live our lives.

Compassionate behaviour is important: God is not.

Yours etc,  
WILLIAM GASKILL,  
9 Valley Terrace,  
Leeds, West Yorkshire,  
June 24.

From Mr Roland F. Platt

Sir, Nigella Lawson (article, June 26) is absolutely right that there are shining examples of atheists having high moral standards, and an atheistic moral system would still have standards. She is also right in drawing attention to the many moral failures of Christians of all denominations and the many examples of intolerance through the ages, although this is a facet of human nature rather than Christianity in particular.

However Christ came to save sinners, and not the righteous. "Fire and brimstone" have little to do with it.

Churchgoing is not about feeling superior or righteous, but collectively admitting to one's sins. We all need to ask forgiveness for failing to live up to the love of God, with an intention to do better in the future. We then celebrate that forgiveness in the body and blood of the risen Christ at the Communion service, and thank God we can.

Yours faithfully,  
ROLAND PLATT,  
Headley House,  
40 Headley Chase, Brentwood, Essex.

From Mr David Norris

Sir, Can Nigella Lawson explain where the power to make choices comes from without the existence of something beyond the physical world? Without that "something" our

thoughts are just the product of the chemical and physical processes within our body and brain.

Yours faithfully,  
D. NORRIS,  
Blackthorn, Buckhurst Lane,  
Wadhurst, East Sussex,  
June 26.

From the Reverend Katrina Barnes

Sir, I can understand the anger felt by Henry Dent-Brocklehurst ("A junkie finds salvation", June 25) about the "guilt which accompanies the saying" about rich men, camels and needles, especially as it is usually taken out of context.

Each of the synoptic gospels records the incident: the saying was directed at a rich young man who approached Jesus asking what he must do in order to inherit eternal life. Just as Mr Dent-Brocklehurst used drink and drugs to fill the void in his life, so the rich young man of the gospels relied on his wealth for his needs, both material and spiritual. Jesus knew that this was the root of the problem for him and not necessarily for the wealthy in general.

All of us have a moral responsibility towards God for the way we use whatever resources are at our disposal, material and spiritual, for the benefit of our society regardless of how rich or poor we may be.

Mr Dent-Brocklehurst has begun to discover what the young man in the gospels failed to see — that riches cannot buy what we need to satisfy our spiritual hunger — only God in and through Christ Jesus can do that.

Yours faithfully,  
KATRINA BARNES,  
39 The Fairway, Bickley, Kent,  
June 25.

## EU farming and animal feed safety

From the Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Sir, Your otherwise persuasive editorial of June 25, "Join the world", criticises Douglas Hogg for supporting the European Commission's imposition of a levy on exports of wheat and barley from the EU over the past six months.

Of course, you are right to say that, given the currently high world market prices for cereals and the low stock levels, the correct response by the EU would be to remove set-aside restrictions and significantly reduce arable area aid payments. This is precisely the course which Douglas Hogg has been urging the Commission and the Council of Ministers to adopt. But this does not, in our view, rule out the use of export levies in the short term as a means of stabilising the EU grain market. There are two reasons.

First, any decision made now to remove set-aside would only affect crops sown next autumn or spring and harvested next summer. Current grain supplies — and this year's harvest, reflect decisions on set-aside made by the Council of Ministers last year and the year before when the market outlook was somewhat different. If the ministers had been able to foresee the high world prices that later materialised, no doubt a lower rate of set-aside would have been set.

Second, while present CAP interventionist mechanisms continue to exist, surely they should at least be operated in an even-handed way as between producers and consumers. Surely an export tax, which benefits EU consumers (not just livestock) and reduces the degree of over-compensation which arable farmers currently enjoy, is an entirely rational move. To argue the opposite, as you do, is to say to EU consumers that the CAP can never work in their favour because they must always pay the EU support price or the world price, whichever is the higher.

We would very much like to see EU

cereals farmers freely responding to world market price movements. But we see no point at all in allowing them to respond to high prices while the CAP continues to shield them from low ones.

Yours sincerely,  
TONY BALDREY,  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food,  
Whitehall Place, SW1,  
June 26.

From the Agricultural Counsellor at the French Embassy

Sir, I have read with interest the letter from the Editor of *Country Life* (June 19) and I should like to take issue with some of the points he raised.

In France, the concentrated feed-stuffs which are given to pigs, poultry or dairy cows represent only a quarter or a fifth of their total food ration, and meat meal is used very seldom by farmers as an ingredient in cattle or ruminant feed. Proteins more commonly come from soya, peas or other vegetable sources.

The import of any meat and bone meal from the UK for ruminant feed was forbidden in August 1989, and their use to feed cattle banned in August 1990. This may account for the low incidence of BSE cases recorded (20 to date). In addition, whenever a case of BSE is identified, the whole herd is slaughtered and burnt.

As for the specified bovine material coming from animals born before July 1991 — ie, those that may have been given infected feedstuff imported before August 1989 — these are systematically destroyed.

These safety measures were adopted in France over and above the European regulations.

Yours sincerely,

MARION GUILLOU,

Agricultural Counsellor,

Embassy of France,

21/24 Grosvenor Place, SW1,  
June 24.

## Last dance

From Ms Adrienne Matheson

Sir, Emma Manning, Editor of *Dance Europe* (letter, June 20; see also letter, June 24), rightly points out the absurd situation that has currently beset London City Ballet.

I am appalled that not a finger has been lifted to ensure the survival of a group which has a record of presenting full-length and mixed bills on a very limited budget, constantly performing in London and throughout the country in areas not visited by larger ballet companies — and with great style and professionalism.

It is imperative to the art of dance that the community at large is given the possibility of discovering this art form. Dance is for all and London City Ballet is an indispensable ingredient in supplying it. To me, this more than justifies the group's right to remain in existence.

Yours sincerely,

ADRIENNE MATHESON

(Assistant Director

and Ballet Master),

Skaneateles, New York,

Box 2039, 22002 Lund, Sweden.  
June 25.

Weekend Money letters, page 41

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

## BBC logos

From Mr Norman Coffey

Sir, So the BBC is planning to spend inevitably a small fortune on new millennium logo designs, all to be funded by licence-fee-payers (Diary, June 28).

It would surely be cheaper, possibly more productive and certainly more fun, for the BBC to offer it to us, their viewers and listeners, including many hundreds of art students, as a design competition? Or am I complicating what could otherwise just be a simple, single payout to one commercial source?

Your obedient servant,  
NORMAN COFFEY,  
The Arts Club, 40 Dover Street, W1,  
June 28.

## Voters' dilemma

From Mr Ian Rae

Sir, At the last general election there was a conservative party, a labour party and a liberal party (lower case sic, so you have to work out which was which). It wasn't hard to decide who to vote for.

Now that we have three conservative parties (and more on the way), how is a responsible voter supposed to make up his mind?

Yours,  
IAN RAE,  
1257 Bristol Road South,  
Northfield, Birmingham 31,  
June 24.

## Becket's casket

From the Reverend R. Paulson

Sir, There is only one place for the Becket casket (report and leading article, June 28; see also letters, June 20, 26) — Canterbury Cathedral.

It is part of the heritage of this country, and I agree with your view that it should be paid for by the National Lottery. However, I do not believe its place is in the V&A where it would rest in comparative obscurity, but at Canterbury where they would "wende, the holy blissful martyr for to seek".

I note that the Getty Museum in California is said to be interested. I would suggest that the best memorial to the late J. Paul Getty, who was a lover of all things European, would be for his Getty estate to supplement the National Lottery funding to keep the casket here.

Earlier ages would have seen the juxtaposition of Getty's home at Sutton Place, a mere three miles from the Pilgrims Way, as a sign. The reality would be a wonderful gesture that could not fail to please those Americans whose ancestors began their pilgrimage here.

Yours faithfully,  
R. PAULSON,  
St Mary's Derryswood,  
Womersley, Guildford, Surrey,  
June 28.

## Football fall-out

From Mr G. N. Kahan

Sir, Your correspondents today address the problem of penalty shoot-outs from the position of the spectator. Modern football is a professional game, and all the solutions offered would be prey to the same professional calculation that has led to the proliferation of penalty shoot-outs, tie-breaks in tennis, etc.

The only way to hit the attitude of a professional is to hit his wallet. Let points mean prize money. Penalise the O-0 draw (as already happens in league football) and the professionals' interest will move much closer to that of the spectator.

Yours faithfully,  
G. N. KAHAN,  
22 The Ridgeway,  
Marlow, Buckinghamshire,  
June 28.

From Mr R. N. S. Slater

Sir, Before advancing the theory that "xenophobic, chauvinistic and jingoistic gutter journalism" (report, June 28) contributed to the riots that followed England's recent defeat, it should be established first if any of the rioters in custody can actually read.

Yours faithfully,  
NEIL SLATER  
(Consultation Orthopaedic Surgeon),  
Mid Kent Healthcare Trust,  
The Maidstone Hospital and  
Community Unit,  
Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, Kent,  
June 28.

From Mrs S. Lewin

Sir, I don't remember seeing many letters complaining about penalty shoot-outs after England's win last week against Spain.

Yours faithfully,  
SANDRA LEWIN,  
3 Bourne End Road,  
Northwood, Middlesex,  
June 28.

From Mr Jeremy Booker

Sir, I suppose that "for us Britz the Euro 96 is over".

Yours sincerely,  
JEREMY BOOKER,  
43 Church Street,  
Buckden, Cambridgeshire,  
June 28.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
The Queen arrived at East Midlands Airport this morning and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire (Mr Timothy Brooks).

Her Majesty drove to Loughborough Grammar School and was received by the Chairman of Governors of Loughborough Grammar School (Mr Philip Tomlinson) and the Mayor of Charnwood (Councillor Kenneth Brailsford).

The Queen opened the new English and Drama Centre and toured the school, escorted by Mr Neville Ireland (Headmaster), and afterwards honoured the Chairman of Governors with her presence at Lunch in the Dining Hall.

This afternoon Her Majesty visited the Defence Animal Centre and was received by the Colonel Commandant, Royal Army Veterinary Corps (Major General Jonathan Hall) and the Commandant of the Defence Animal Centre (Colonel Andrew Roache). The Queen viewed equine activities and subsequently opened the new Manager.

Her Majesty afterwards visited the Veterinary Hospital and was received by Major David White (Officer in Charge of the Veterinary Division).

The Queen toured the hospital and watched some of the work performed.

Her Majesty subsequently viewed a demonstration of dog training and handling.

The Queen later walked along Nottingham Street, Melton Mowbray, and viewed the Corn Cross, escorted by the Mayor of Melton (Councillor Robert Hyatt).

The Duke of Edinburgh, Admiral of the Fleet, this morning visited HMS Naval Air Squadron, HMS Osprey, Portland, Dorset. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Captain Colin Partridge of Whitehouse (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire) at the Memorial Service for Sir Maitland Mackie (formerly Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire) which was held in St Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen, this afternoon.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
June 28: The Duke of York this afternoon opened the new Birmingham and Midland Eye Centre, Dudley Road.

## Weekend birthdays

Tomorrow is the 18th anniversary of the marriage of Prince and Princess Michael of Kent.

**TODAY:** Mr Richard Alexander, MP, 62; the Duchess of Bedford, 76; Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, 85; the Hon Charlotte Bingham, writer, 54; Mr Jeremy Bay, MP, 66; Lord Cornwallis, 75; Mr David Donaldson, painter, 80; Baroness Farrington of Ribblesdale, 86; Sir Frank Clegg, former chairman, Taylor Woodrow Group, 69; Lady Greenroose, director general, Age Concern England, 61; Mr George Howarth, MP, 47; Sir Rex Hunt, former governor, Falkland Islands, 70; Sir Brian Hutton, Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, 65; Professor Sir Miles Irving, former director, Manchester University, 61; Professor M.K. Jones, archaeologist, 45; Viscount Kemsley, 87; Mr Rafael Kubelick, conductor, 82; Mrs Veronica Lowe, former director, Solicitors Complaints Bureau, 45; Miss Usha Prashar, former director, National Council for Voluntary Organisations, 48; Mr Nigel Richardson, Headmaster,

The Perse School, Cambridge, 48; Vice-Admiral Sir John Roxburgh, 77; Miss Nancy Sanders, archaeologist, 82; Sir David Woodbine, former chairman, City and Guilds of London Institute, 81; Mr Geoffrey Woolley, journalist, 81.

**TOMORROW:** Alexander of Tunis, 61; Viscount Brookeborough, 44; Sir Max Brown, civil servant, 82; Sir Richard Bull, former head, Kuster, Bury School, 61; Earl Cawley, 34; Mr Ian Hay Davidson, chairman, Storehouse, 65; Mr John Fraser, MP, 62; Mr Keith Grant, former director, Design Council, 62; Miss Lena Horne, singer, 79; Mr Walter James, former Principal, St John's Grammar, Windsor, 64; Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Leask, 83; Mr David Lidington, MP, 40; Mr C.H. Lloyd, Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, 51; Mr James Loughran, conductor, 65; Sir Eric Richardson, former Director, Polytechnic of Central London, 51; Mr B.L. Salmon, former Director, City of London, 79; Mr Mike Tyson, boxer, 30.

**Anniversaries**  
**TODAY:** BIRTHS: William James Mayo, surgeon, Le Sueur, Minnesota, 1861; George Ellery Hale, astronomer, Chicago, 1866.

**DEATHS:** Elizabeth Barrett Browning, poet, Florence, 1861; Thomas Henry Buxton, biologist, Eastbourne, 1895; Paul Klee, painter, Muralto-Locarno, 1940; Ignace Paderewski, pianist and Prime Minister of Poland 1919, New York, 1941; Moise Tshombe, Prime Minister of Congo 1960-65, Algiers, 1965.

**TOMORROW:** BIRTHS: John Gay, dramatist, Barnstable, 1685; Sir Stanley

Spencer, painter, Cookham, Berkshire, 1891; Walter Ulbricht, chairman, Council of State, German Democratic Republic, 1901; Leipzig, 1939; Howard Hawks, film director, Gothen, Indiana, 1896.

**DEATHS:** Montezuma II, last Mexican Emperor 1502-20, killed, Mexico City, 1520; Margery Allingham, writer of detective stories, Colchester, 1906; Nancy Mitford, novelist and biographer, Versailles, 1973; Lillian Hellman, dramatist, Boston, Massachusetts, 1984.

The naval mutiny at the Nore was suppressed in 1797 by Margaret Mitchell was published, 1936.

## Royal engagements

**TODAY:**  
The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, will attend the Jaurp Trophy polo match at the Guards' Polo Club, Smith's Lawn, at 12.55.

The Duke of York, as Colonel-in-Chief, will present new colours to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment at Catterick at 10.45.

**TOMORROW:**  
The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will attend the final of the European Football Championships at Wembley Stadium at 6.45. The Duke of Kent, as President of the Football Association, will also attend.

**Knighton House School**  
Term ends on July 11 with Open Day. The following awards have been made to current Knighton pupils: Rose Balston (Music exhibition, Sherborne School for Girls), Rosie Hillary (Music exhibition, Wells Cathedral School), George Le Hardy (Art scholarship, St Mary's School, Weymouth), Rose Llewellyn (Academic scholarship, Godolphin), Jennifer Reynolds (Academic and Art scholarships, Bryanston), Georgina Richards (Allrounding award, St Mary's School, Weymouth), Abigail Russ (Academic scholarship, Godolphin). Former pupils wishing to receive a newsletter, please telephone 01284 452005.

Knighton House School is a Registered Charity, No 306316, for the education of children.

**Luncheon**  
International Theatre Institute. Mr Neville Shillington, Chairman and Director of the International Theatre Institute, presided at a luncheon held yesterday at the Theatre Museum, London WC2, to mark the 50 years of Miss Violet Marriott's work in theatre.

Mr Robert Breckman, Sir Clive Richard and Mr Andrew Vespenevsky also spoke. The Countess of Warwick, Mr Nicky Henson, Miss Fenella Fielding, Mr Andrew Leigh, Mr Louis Fantasia and Miss Margaret Lewis were among the guests.

**Concert**  
Royal Medical Benevolent Fund. A concert for the 100th anniversary year of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund was held last night in Westminster Cathedral.

Gramophone included works by Berlioz performed by the Bach Choir, the Master Chorus of Tampa, Florida, and the New London Orchestra conducted by Sir David Willcocks, and works by Bruckner and Mendelssohn conducted by Dr Robert Summer.

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The Queen takes cover under an umbrella as she walks to Loughborough Grammar School with Neville Ireland, the headmaster. She opened a new English and drama centre at the school yesterday and toured the school.

## Memorial services

**Major-General Pat Patterson**  
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Major-General Arthur Gordon "Pat" Patterson was held yesterday at St George's, Bloomsbury.

Mr David Vernon and Professor Peter Hennessy, Gresham Professor of Rhetoric, gave addresses.

**University news**  
London  
Professor Graham Zellick, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the university and Principal of Queen Mary and Westfield College, to be Vice-Chancellor from September 1, 1997.

Professor Sir Colin Doherty to continue as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Medicine and Dentistry for 1996-97.

**Appointment**  
Professor Robert Boyd, Professor of Child Health at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, will succeed Professor Sir William Asscher as Principal of St George's Hospital Medical School when Sir William retires on October 1.

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**Memorial services**  
Major-General Patterson. A service of thanksgiving for the life of Major-General Arthur Gordon "Pat" Patterson was held yesterday at St George's, Bloomsbury.

Mr David Vernon and Professor Peter Hennessy, Gresham Professor of Rhetoric, gave addresses.

**University news**  
London  
Professor Graham Zellick, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the university and Principal of Queen Mary and Westfield College, to be Vice-Chancellor from September 1, 1997.

Professor Sir Colin Doherty to continue as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Medicine and Dentistry for 1996-97.

## Dinner

**One Paper Buildings**  
Mr Justice Nelson was the guest of honour at a dinner held at the Garrick Club last night by the members of his chambers to mark his appointment as a High Court Judge. Mr John Slater, QC, his elected successor as head of chambers, presided. Former members present were Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, Lord Justice Beldam and Mr Justice Tucker.

**Service dinners**  
HMS Collingwood  
Admiral Sir Jack Slater, First Sea Lord, was the guest of honour at a dinner held last night in HMS Collingwood to mark the 50th anniversary of the Royal Naval Weapon Engineering Specialisation. Commodore J. Chadwick presided.

**The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders**  
Major-General D.P. Thomson presided at a dinner of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Dinner Club held last night at Stirling Castle. Major-General R.J. Sharp, Royal NSW Regiment, Colonel R.M. Roy, A and SH of Canada, and Major-General D.A.S. Pennefather, Commandant General Royal Marines, were present.

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## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr C.F.R. Beauchamp**  
and Miss S.J. Parry  
The engagement is announced between Charlie, son of Mr and Mrs D.M.W. Beauchamp, of Dorchester, Dorset, and Susie, daughter of Mr and Mrs E.A.J. Parry, of Bovey Tracey, Devon.

**Captain T.M. Chapman**  
and Miss L.J. Maunsell  
The engagement is announced between Captain Timothy Chapman, Royal Green Jackets, elder son of Mr and Mrs Colin Chapman, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, and Lucy, youngest daughter of Colonel and Mrs Robert Maunsell, of Fittleton, Wiltshire.

**Mr A. Collings**  
and Miss F. Khan  
The engagement is announced between Adam, son of Mr and Mrs Clarence Collings, of Stoke Gabriel, Devon, and Fana, daughter of Mr and Mrs Fadel Khan, of Knightsbridge, London, and Abi Dhaib, United Arab Emirates.

**Mr S.A. Collins**  
and Miss A.J. Brock-Davies  
The engagement is announced between Simon, only son of Mr and Mrs Desmond Collins, of Clayhanger, Devon, and Amanda, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Brock-Davies, of Clondan Park, Surrey.

**Mr W.A. Gray**  
and Miss J.G.T. Lister  
The engagement is announced between Alan, younger son of Mrs M.B. Gray, of Chichester, West Sussex, and the late Mr W. Gray, formerly of Beards, Glasgow, and Jean, daughter of the late Dr and Mrs J.A. Lister, of Burnside, Glasgow.

**Mr P.J. Guthrie**  
and Miss S.C. Sargent  
The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Guthrie, of Little Hilla Green, Hackney, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, and Susanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Sargent, of Wrentham Green, Hackney, Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

**Mr F.A.C. Perry**  
and Miss E.C. Rhind-Tutt  
The engagement is announced between Fergus, younger son of the Hon Michael and Mrs Perry, of Appin, Argyll, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Rhind-Tutt, of Wargrave, Berkshire.

**Mr R.W. Proctor**  
and Miss L.M. Chin Yuen Kee  
The engagement is announced between Benedict, younger son of Mr and Mrs R. Proctor, of Christ's Hospital, Horsham, West Sussex, and Lena, only daughter of Dr M. and Dr Y. Havranek, of Magstadt, Germany.

**Mr R.M.L. Chin Yuen Kee**  
and Miss L.M. Chin Yuen Kee  
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## NEWS

## Blair wins referendum backing

■ Tony Blair won the backing of Scottish Labour Party leaders for a referendum on an Edinburgh parliament, in spite of the growing rebellion over a plan that has already prompted two top resignations. Mr Blair, who was booed and heckled by protesters accusing him of a sell-out, insisted that he would press ahead and won overwhelming support. Page 1

## Divorce delay upsets Princess

■ Lawyers for the Princess of Wales have become exasperated over her husband's failure to respond to £30 million divorce proposals tabled almost three months ago. The delay is also irritating the Queen, who is increasingly anxious that the couple's divorce be wrapped up. Page 1

## Beneficent Clarke

Kenneth Clarke claimed there is new help for indebted nations and a return of the "feel-good factor" to Britain. Pages 1, 2

## Becker out

Boris Becker pulled out of Wimbledon after injuring his wrist in a match against Neville Godwin of South Africa. Page 1

## Growing pains

A multimillionaire's plan for stunning grounds went sour after his wife clashed with gardeners, a tribunal was told. Page 3

## Youths 'let off'

A judge was outraged that two youths who robbed people at knifepoint had only been reprimanded by police. Page 8

## Somme revisited

More than 3,000 people are gathering to remember one of the most sacrificial battles of the First World War. Page 9

## FBI agent tells of Clinton trysts

■ A blistering and instantly disputed account of life with the Clintons — with the President holding midnight trysts in a Washington hotel and the First Lady imperiously ruling the roost — was published by a former FBI agent. Page 1

## Bullies' victims

A third of teenage girls and a quarter of boys fear school bullies. The most conscientious are the likeliest victims. Page 7

## Cold shoulder

Clinton is considering a clampdown on Sinn Féin and the IRA after G7 leaders agreed to unite against terrorism. Page 12

## Bomb anger

America says it was denied access to Saudi Arabian terrorists whose information might have foiled this week's bomb. Page 13

## Where's Yeltsin?

Yeltsin's virtual disappearance over the past two days have triggered fresh concerns about his health. Page 14

## At Europe's helm

John Bruton pursues peace, victory over crime and better wages and jobs as Ireland takes the Euro-presidency. Page 15

## NATURE NOTES

## Scottish U-Tern (Electus forgodsake)

By flexing its backbone, this bird can adopt an uncomfortable referendum position.

29 VI 96  
Peter Brookes



## OPINION

**Devolution dangers:** Blair's referendum on devolution is his boldest policy change so far, and the most cavalier. It also has the potential to go badly awry. Page 23

**Copper cropper:** As Margaret Thatcher said, you can't buck the market. Perhaps many Japanese corporate leaders have not taken this on board. Page 23

## LETTERS

Blair on devolution; beliefs; EU farming; Becker's casket. Euro 96; BBC logos; London City Ballet. Page 23

## COLUMNS

**Simon Jenkins:** The Becket casket is not British. The French made it. This work is a product of Europe's collective history. Page 22

**Ralph Harris:** If only the early Fabians had heeded Smiles rather than Marx. Self-Help suggests the worst error of old Labour was to preach false hopes. Page 22

## ARTS

**Useful culture:** "Without a pledge to put talent to use in the community, art is just another way of saying 'look how clever I am'." Richard Morrison writes. Page 19

**Off the hill:** Daniel J. Travanti leads a production of *The Aspern Papers*. Page 19

**Doublet evil:** David Troughton's Richard III is one of the few compelling reasons for going to the Royal Shakespeare Company's current Barbican season. Page 21

**Punk reprise:** More veterans. This time The Fall, make their London comeback. Page 21

## BUSINESS

**Lonrho:** The mining conglomerate is to spin off its hotel and trading divisions. Page 27

**Wicks:** Two directors have been suspended from their jobs. Page 27

**Economy:** New figures show that disposable incomes are rising fast while the current account deficit for 1995 was less than half that expected. Page 27

**Markets:** The FT-SE 100 index rose 32.2 to close at 3711.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 85.9 to 86.3. Page 30

## SPORT

**Tennis:** Boris Becker, No 2 seed, went out of the Wimbledon men's singles after conceding to Neville Godwin. Page 52

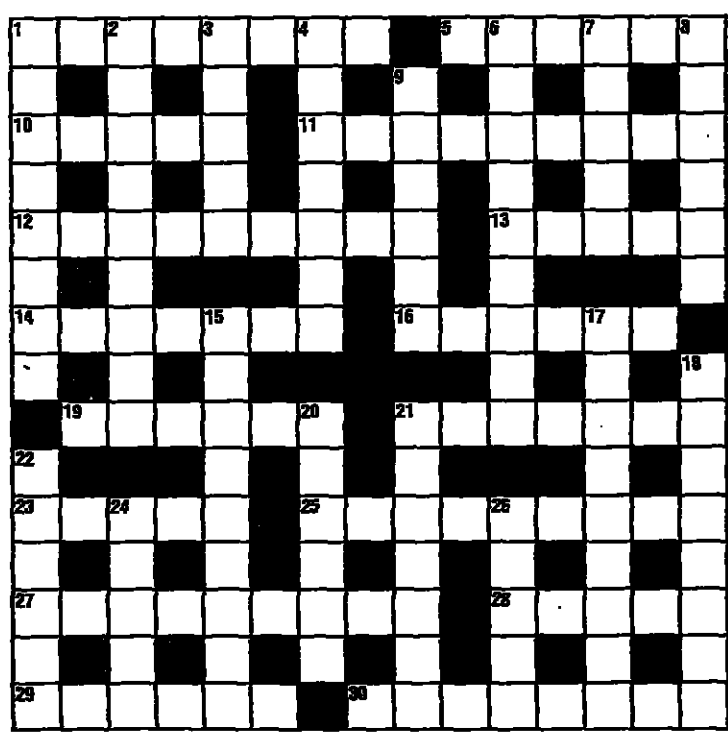
**Football:** England may have gone, but the chance of a romantic outcome remains in the final of Euro 96 between favourites Germany and the Czech Republic. Page 46

**Cricket:** The Test and County Cricket Board has summoned Warwickshire officials because of the unsuitable pitch for the first Test. Page 45

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,207

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



## ACROSS

- 1 Tory sleaze, without going to extremes, stirred up fanaticism (8).
- 5 Incentive to listen to Marlowe, say (6).
- 10 Old coin, by no means common (5).
- 11 Flag down fisherman (4,5).
- 12 Go and see hut, a dilapidated building (9).
- 13 Assault is beginning (5).
- 14 Awfully pleased to have passed (7).
- 16 Second chance to cut (6).
- 21 Exercise control before assuming pretentious air? (7).
- 23 Part of brooch, red and yellow (5).
- 25 Fellow, brought up to bowl, shivers (9).
- 27 Out of the medals, we hear, despite showing right away (9).
- 28 In the course of visit, one turned purple (5).
- 29 Engineers spot on? It's unlikely (6).
- 30 Drug abuse — a pointer (8).

## DOWN

- 1 Unknown, with a burst of energy, becomes popular author (4,4).
- 2 Decide, undergarment held up's exotic attire (6).
- 3 Charm award bestowed on a husband (5).
- 4 Holding up live ammunition — it's tied up again (7).
- 6 Vamp is participating in rally (9).
- 7 You said plenty about bloomer (5).
- 8 One boarding to go on illicit vessel (6).
- 9 Old master uses book on English in courses (6).
- 15 Singer performing, with the cast milling around (9).
- 17 The vulgar rhyme (3,6).
- 18 Laugh about girl beginning to cause worrying problem (8).
- 20 Commit matricide in field? (6).
- 21 Dish's burning as result of being careless with fire (3,4).
- 22 Ark put up for sale after a century (6).
- 24 Lots of women hasten to get married (5).
- 26 Greeting man will love (5).

## Solution to Puzzle No 20,201

AFRONT RICEPAPER  
UE ITH I O E  
ALLOWANCE COTUP  
L E L G K B U  
ARROWPEALMOY  
N E E U  
CLOVEHITCHEROS  
H S D C A P R I  
EACH CHEKHOVIAN  
U P A E P C  
VILLAGE SINGLES  
E A P L I N O R  
NUTTY MISSJULIE  
U E R A L A R I  
SIDEISSUE YUMMY

## Solution to Puzzle No 20,206

BANDIT BRICKBAT  
I T I R U H U E  
PROSPECT CARMEN  
B I A T R B A  
PORRIDGE FALLEN  
N S P I R I T U E  
M E S S I L E A G E D  
I E P L A Y B A L L S  
D M I T T E R  
N O O D L E T U G O W A R  
I L L R U O I L  
GUITAR ORACULAR  
H N G K R R T  
TRAVERSE DUSTER

## TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 5001 followed by the code.  
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Kent, Surrey, Sussex 702  
Devon, Dorset & Cornwall 703  
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Hereford & Worcester 704  
Berkshire, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire 705  
Bedfordshire & Essex 706  
Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire & Lincolnshire 707  
West Midlands & Shropshire 708  
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester 709  
Central Midlands 710  
East Midlands 711  
Lincs & Humberside 712  
East of England 713  
W & S Yorks & Wales 714  
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